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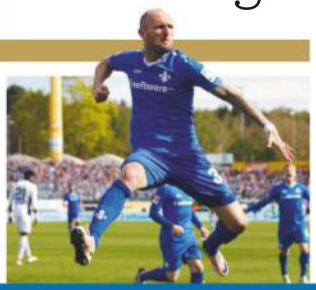

PLUS

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- Uruguay
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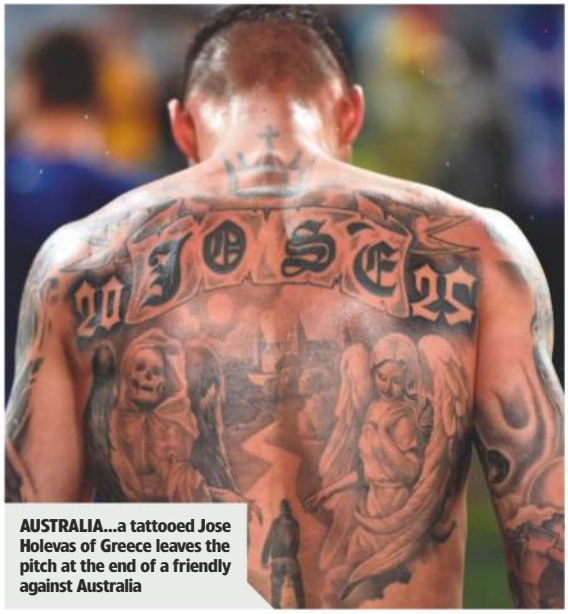

AUSTRALIA...a tattooed Jose Holevas of Greece leaves the pitch at the end of a friendly against Australia

GERMANY...Borussia Dortmund fans enjoy a boat trip on the river Spree ahead of the German Cup Final against Bayern Munich

MEXICO... Pachuca celebrate winning the Mexican league title after beating Monterrey

USA...DC United's Marcelo Sarvas (front) tries to keep Sporting Kansas City's Paulo Nagamura at bay

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FROM THE EDITOR

It is not rocket science to observe that European club football is increasingly polarised. This season we have the same champions in France, Germany, Italy and Spain. And it is not just the major leagues.

Titles have been retained by defending champions in Austria, Greece, Holland, Portugal, Scotland and Switzerland. Not to mention in Bulgaria, Bosnia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Georgia, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine.

Basle won their 10th Swiss title in 11 years, Olympiakos their 18th in 20 years in Greece. Paris Saint-Germain, meanwhile, finished a whopping 31 points ahead of Lyon in France.

So in an era where money dominates and titles are so often won by the biggest spenders, it makes the achievement of Leicester City all the more remarkable.

> In an era where titles are so often won by the biggest spenders, Leicester City's achievement is all the more remarkable

In this end-of-season review, we report on leagues across Europe, major and minor, but we have also picked out some of the more surprising and interesting stories (page 24).

And there's no rest. In the next issue, we'll round up the Copa America and Euro 2016, and preview the Olympic football tournaments.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor

10 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THIS MONTH

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2 Real Madrid win 11th European Cup ..... page 34
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8 Lanus win title in Argentina ..... page 88
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10 Luis Suarez wins the ESM Golden Shoe ..... page 17

Pressure...new FIFA president Gianni Infantino

FIFA

Infantino under fire as Blatter bonus and pay revealed

Three senior officials – ex-president Sepp Blatter, former secretary-general Jerome Valcke and recently sacked deputy general Markus Kattner – awarded themselves pay rises and World Cup-related bonuses totalling more than SFr79million (£55m) according to American lawyers brought in by FIFA to investigate the Blatter era.

According to US law firm Quinn Emanuel, the payments were made during the officials' last five years in office and appeared to violate Swiss law.

"The evidence appears to reveal a co-ordinated effort by three former top officials of FIFA to enrich themselves through annual salary increases, World Cup bonuses and other incentives totalling more than SFr79m [£57.8m] in just the last five years," said Bill Burck of Quinn Emanuel.

The revelations came the day after police raided FIFA offices to seize evidence for the ongoing Swiss investigation into corruption at the world governing body. Blatter was reported to have received £23.3m, Valcke £22.9m and Kattner £9.5m.

The payments included new eight-and-a-half year contract extensions for Valcke and Kattner

"We look forward to showing FIFA that Mr Blatter's compensation payments were proper, fair and in line with the heads of major professional sports leagues around the world"

Lawyers representing the former FIFA president (right) defend the £55million that he, Jerome Valcke and Markus Kattner received from FIFA as bonus and salary payments

shortly before FIFA's presidential election in May 2011, when Blatter faced a challenge from Mohamed Bin Hammam. Their contracts were extended until 2019, with "big increases in base salaries and bonuses" and guaranteed severance payments. They amounted to SFr17.5m (£12.8m) and SFr9.8m (£7.1m) to Valcke and Kattner respectively in case their contracts were terminated.

The three officials also received SFr23m (£16.8m) as "special bonuses" four months after the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, even though the "bonuses" were not mentioned in any contract.

Valcke and Kattner received a further SFr14m (£10.2m) in bonuses for the 2014 World Cup, as well as another payment of SFr15.5m (£11.3m) in June 2014 for the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

Although Quinn Emanuel are believed to have known about the payments for some time, it has been suggested that they were made public in an attempt to deflect attention away from the recent troubles of new FIFA president Infantino. The story broke on the day Infantino was being challenged to face an ethics investigation.

According to a report in the German paper *Die Welt*, leaked internal emails show that Infantino tried to delete recorded minutes from a FIFA Council meeting held in Mexico City on May 23.

The report followed the resignation of audit panel chairman Dominic Scala, who had been tasked with cleaning up corruption within FIFA but who had clashed with Infantino.

Gavin Hamilton

HEROES & VILLAINS

GURPREET SINGH SANDHU

The Punjab-born goalkeeper became the first Indian to start a league game in a top-flight European league – and marked the occasion by keeping a clean sheet as Stabaek beat Start 5-0 in Norway.

No1...Stabaek keeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu

FRANCESCO TOTTI

The 39-year-old Roma forward signed a new 12-month contract with the Serie A club.

PELILEO SPORTING CLUB

The Ecuadorian third-tier side beat rivals Indi Native 44-1, with winger Ronny Medina scoring 18 goals. The only game to have finished with a higher scoreline was AS Adema's 149-0 victory over SO l'Emyrne, in Madagascar in 2002, although every goal was scored by the losing side in protest over refereeing decisions.

CLAUDIO RANIERI

The 64-year-old Italian won the first title of his career – and plenty of new admirers – after guiding Leicester City to the most unlikely Premier League triumph.

Surprise...Premier League winner Claudio Ranieri

ALEXIS GARCIA

Banned for three games for deliberately poking a ball boy in the eye, the Santa Fe boss claimed that he was just pointing something out to the referee during their game at Nacional. "I stuck out my hand and the kid came with his face," said the 66-year old.

Innocent...Alex Garcia claims he was just making a point

SERGE AURIER

Suspended by Paris Saint-Germain in February for posting a video online in which he insulted his coach and team-mates, the Ivory Coast international was arrested following an incident outside a nightclub in the French capital and charged with assaulting a police officer.

COPA AMERICA ORGANISERS

Uruguayan players had to listen to the national anthem of Chile ahead of their Copa America match with Mexico, after the organisers played the wrong tune.

Off key...Uruguay listen to the national anthem of Chile

SOSHA MAKANI

The Iran goalkeeper was suspended for six months after wearing what were described as "SpongeBob SquarePants" trousers.

"At United we've missed a manager like Mourinho, with the personality and mindset of a winner"

Manchester United keeper David De Gea (left) takes a swipe at outgoing boss Louis Van Gaal

GOALS we'd like to see again

To see video footage of these goals, and many more that we have selected, scan the QR code using any free QR reader that can be downloaded to your smartphone. You can also see the videos by logging on to http://po.st/njZBw6

1 JESSE LINGARD
Manchester United v Crystal Palace
Cracking volley from inside the penalty area to win the FA Cup.

2 RAUL MEIRELES
Fenerbahce v Sivasspor
Tees the ball up before volleying into the far top corner from outside the penalty area.

3 NOAH SONKO SUNDBERG
GIF Sundsvall v Ostersunds
Spectacular bicycle kick on the edge of the area following a free-kick.

4 JORDI ALBA
Barcelona v Sevilla
A brilliant pass from Lionel Messi sets up the opening goal of the Spanish Cup Final.

5 GONZALO HIGUAIN
Argentina v Honduras
Produces a fantastic turn to lose his marker before smartly clipping the ball over the advancing goalkeeper.

6 JAVIER HERNANDEZ
Mexico v Chile
Diving header at the far post to give Mexico the lead in a pre-Copa America friendly.

WINNERS

LANUS
A 4-0 victory against San Lorenzo in a play-off saw them crowned Argentinian champions.

ENGLAND UNDER-21S
Gareth Southgate's team beat the hosts, France, to win the Toulon Tournament for the first time for 22 years.

KINGSLEY COMAN
On loan at Bayern Munich, the 19-year-old has won eight trophies in his three seasons as a professional.

LOUIS VAN GAAL
Despite winning the FA Cup for Manchester United, the Dutchman is sacked two days later.

NEW YORK CITY
Beaten 7-0 by New York Red Bulls at home in the "Hudson River Derby".

EL TANQUE
The Uruguayans scored five in a must-win last game but still lost 6-5 to Defensor and went down.

LOSERS

"I was Nigeria's leader when Stephen Keshi led our team to win AFCON and I testify that we couldn't have done it without him. Adieu Keshi"

Former Nigerian president Goodluck Jonathan (left, with Keshi)

OBITUARIES

Stephen Keshi (1962-2016)

Stephen Keshi was always something of a laconic, laid-back figure, a tooth pick or match stick inevitably sticking out the corner of his mouth and a quizzical half-raised eyebrow followed by a smile.

But the body language belied a steely determination, a strong will and an intolerance of the fools who sought to stymie his ambitions and plans.

Keshi's primary epitaph is as one of only two men to have won the African Nations Cup as both player and coach, but his achievements also included blazing a trail for African footballers at top clubs in Europe and qualifying tiny Togo for the World Cup.

His nickname "Big Boss" came from his playing days with Nigeria, who he skippered to the 1994 African Nations Cup title and then the World Cup in the USA the same year.

Leader...captain Keshi lifts the African Nations Cup in 1994

Top boss...a Nations Cup winner in 2013

Keshi was a superb defender who came out of one of Lagos' posher schools and debuted for the national team aged 20. He then moved to Belgium via a stint in Ivory Coast and played in the 1990 European Cup-winners Cup Final for Anderlecht, for whom he famously secured Ghanaian prodigy Nii Lamptey Odartey by smuggling him out of west Africa on a false Nigerian passport.

He played for Strasbourg and after the 1994 World Cup – where he fell out with coach Clemens Westerhof – he played in the USA.

Keshi was the quintessential African Nations Cup man with a record unlikely to ever be matched.

As a player he went to six finals – a record at the time – although he played in only five of the tournaments. Twice he appeared in the Final, in 1984 in Abidjan and 1988 in Morocco, losing both times to Cameroon. In 1994 he did not play in the Final because of injury but still lifted the trophy after the win over Zambia in Tunis.

He was assistant to Dutchman Jo Bonfrere when Nigeria hosted the tournament in 2000 and finished runners-up, and again two years later in Mali when they reached the semi-final under Shaibu Amodu (*see right*).

In 2006 he qualified Togo, with a population of just seven million, to the 2006 World Cup in Germany. It was a remarkable feat achieved with a motley squad, spearheaded by Emmanuel Adebayor but made up mostly by players from the lower leagues in France and the semi-professional local league.

They won seven out of their 10 games in a tough six-team qualifying group, pipping much-fancied Senegal to top spot.

But Keshi never got to go to Germany, being dismissed after the Nations Cup in Egypt which preceded the World Cup when his criticism of Adebayor led to a furious outburst from the combustible striker. The pair almost came to blows outside the team bus and within view of watching media, and it became a "him or me" situation that Adebayor was always going to win.

He later took Mali to the African Nations Cup, in 2010, and won it with Nigeria in 2013, and then finally got to go to the World Cup as a coach. In charge of the "Super Eagles" in Brazil a year later, he took them into the knockout round for the first time since 1998.

The foibles of both playing and coaching Nigeria gave Keshi a thick skin. He knew how to play the political game but at the same time stay focused on the football, smiling through clenched teeth at administrators and hangers-on who seemed, at times, to suffocate the team but standing his ground when they tried to interfere in his team selection.

Keshi was set for a new challenge in his career, linked with a move to a club in South Africa, when he suffered a heart attack in Benin City and died on June 8 aged just 54.

Mark Gleeson

Fate...Shaibu Amodu missed two World Cups

SHAIBU AMODU (1958-2016)

The technical director of the Nigerian football federation, and coach of the national side on a number of different occasions, died suddenly in Lagos a few days after Stephen Keshi.

Under Amodu, Nigeria qualified for the 2002 World Cup and reached the semi-finals of the African Nations Cup, but he was sacked months before the tournament in Japan and South Korea.

He also led Nigeria to the 2010 World Cup finals but was fired in favour of Sven Goran Eriksson.

Happy days...Sascha Lewandowski at Leverkusen

SASCHA LEWANDOWSKI (1971-2016)

The former Bayer Leverkusen coach was found dead at his home in Bochum, Germany, aged 44.

Lewandowski left his role as Union Berlin coach in March, after six months in charge, on medical advice because of acute fatigue syndrome.

"I always get excited ahead of the tournament, even though it might not seem so"

Spain coach Vicente Del Bosque

Notebook

Highlights from some of our regular on-line contributions

COPA AMERICA

Perhaps the standout image from the first three days of the Copa came when the whistle blew on Peru's 1-0 win over Haiti.

Deep in second-half stoppage time Haiti won a free-kick. Jeff Louis dinked the ball behind the Peruvian line and sub Kevin Fils Belfort, three yards from goal, looked certain to equalise. But he tried to make a little too sure of beating the keeper and, when it seemed easier to score, he glanced his header just wide.

It was Haiti's best chance of the game. In fact, it was either side's best chance of the game. But it was gone and there was no time for redemption. A few seconds later the game was over and Belfort collapsed in a heap. He was consoled and helped from the field by team-mates.

It was a touching sight and one that, in a way, went some distance towards summing up the start of the competition.

In a tournament where, so far, 12 teams have played and only five have managed to score a goal, there has been more disappointment than celebration and much of the action so far has struggled to get out of first gear.

Tim Vickery

Miss...Kevin Fils Belfort

ITALY

On paper, Juve's 1-0 extra-time defeat of Milan in the Italian Cup Final in Rome hardly comes under the "surprise" category. After all, in the season that had just finished, Juventus finished top, fully 34 points clear of seventh-placed Milan.

Curiously, however, no such superiority manifested itself in a game in which Milan made much of the running, only to lose to a seemingly undermotivated Juventus.

The point, of course, is that motivation decides everything. At the end of a season when – at least since October – Juve have played like unbeatable extraterrestrials, they were perhaps just a little mentally exhausted. In contrast, at the end of a season when they have underwhelmed, Milan had a lot riding on this game as victory would have guaranteed a Europa League place.

Thus it was that the more motivated Milan had by far the best of the exchanges, especially in the first half.

Sharper finishing might even have put Milan in front before half-time. In the end, though, Juve rode out the storm, brought on subs in the shape of Juan Cuadrado, Alvaro Morata and Alex Sandro, and wrapped up the game in the 110th minute.

Not for nothing, the winning goal came from an accurate cross from Cuadrado, brilliantly slotted home by Morata.

Paddy Agnew

Denied...Milan (in red) couldn't get past Juventus

Unlucky... Marco Reus

GERMANY

If an award was to be handed out for German football's unluckiest player, Marco Reus would come first, second and third in the polling.

Plagued by a cut-glass physique for much of his career, Borussia Dortmund's flying machine had to sit out the last World Cup after damaging ankle ligaments on the eve of the tournament and has now suffered an identical last-gasp breakdown, deprived of a Euro 2016 spot by a malfunctional groin.

Individually and collectively, a hammer blow.

"At the moment he can only run in straight lines," explained Germany coach Joachim Low. "The prognosis wasn't good and on medical grounds I had to omit him."

Besides Reus, three other players had the misfortune not to make the final squad cut: Hoffenheim right-back Sebastian Rudy and Bayer Leverkusen wingers Karim Bellarabi and Julian Brandt.

Despite a thoroughly underwhelming injury-hit season at Manchester United, skipper and midfield hub Bastian Schweinsteiger, was deemed fit for the French expedition, as was key central defender, Mats Hummels, who had been struggling of late with a calf problem.

Nick Bidwell

Weekly notes from Brazil, Spain, Germany and Italy at **worldsoccer.com**

Paul GARDNER

THE WORLDWIDE VIEW

Latino crowds make Copa a big draw in the US

Backing...Colombia supporters outnumbered home fans in the opening Copa America game, against the USA

How come the 100th edition of South America's prestigious tournament ended up being played in North America?

We could blame colonialism, I suppose. Colonialism that saddled the continent with only 10 countries – which is not enough for a decent tournament. These days, 16 teams are required, though the World Cup (currently at 32 teams) and the Euros (24) have already soared beyond that measly minimum.

Sixteen breaks down neatly into groups of four; you get a first round, quarters, semis and then a Final. That's 32 games – just about enough to make some money on gate receipts.

There are actually 13 countries in South America, but Guyana (which used to be British Guiana), Suriname (former Dutch Guiana) and Guyane (which is still French) are exiled by FIFA to CONCACAF, not CONMEBOL. And so the Copa America, which is to be the world's oldest international soccer tournament, is six teams short of where it needs to be.

What to do? Cleaning up the mess left behind by 18th-century colonialism is child's play for 21st-century commercialism: simply invite six "guest" teams. They won't be South American, of course, but who cares? You now have a proper tournament of 32 games.

But where do you play it? There is really only one country with enough large, modern stadiums to stage it: Brazil. But they have just had the 2014 World Cup and this year they have the Olympics to occupy their energies.

The marketing answer? Make the 2016 Copa a joint North/South America production. Invite your six guest teams from CONCACAF countries and stage the tournament in the USA, which has plenty of huge stadiums.

Bigger crowds then, but equally important, considerably higher ticket prices. The lowest ticket prices for the USA-based Copa were around $60 for some first-round games. For the Final, the price ranges from $264 up to $24,000 for a double suite. And with American television heavily involved, larger TV rights and sponsorship deals naturally follow.

While that may all sound negatively and gratingly crass, there is a need to mention an important positive point.

There are 55million Hispanics living in the USA, making them the largest minority ethnic group in the country. So the transplanted Copa offers millions of immigrant and American-born Latinos the rare chance for a live look at their teams. And these fans show up in impressive numbers. In California, the USA's opening game in the Copa against Colombia, drew 67,439 – the majority of whom were Colombians. And it was Latino fans who were in the majority in Arizona where a crowd of 60,000 watched Mexico v Uruguay.

The predominantly Latino crowd of 69,491 at the Argentina v Chile game underlined the financial point. The same two teams had met in last year's Copa Final in Chile, and on that occasion the smaller stadium, in Santiago, had limited the crowd to 45,693.

The first eight games of the tournament in Chile produced an average attendance of 19,108 in comparison with over 40,000 for each of the first eight games in the US.

Such lusty figures guaranteed that the 2016 Copa Centenario would be a huge commercial success. In all probability, it will draw more Hispanic fans to the stadiums than any previous edition.

> The first eight games of the 2015 Copa in Chile produced an average attendance of 19,108 – in comparison with over 40,000 for each of the first eight games in the US this year

But there is concern in the USA that the Copa has not helped MLS, which felt obliged to suspend its season during the tournament's first round.

For the critics, the Copa belongs in South America. A one-off 100th birthday tournament is fine, but there is concern that the Copa might be on its way to finding a permanent – and profitable – home in the USA. WS

"I am only afraid of death"

Brazil coach Dunga, when asked if he feared losing his job after his side's early exit from this year's Copa America

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Appointments, sackings and loans

IN

Ajax...Peter Bosz

EUROPE

GIAMPIERO VENTURA stepped down as coach of Torino and will coach Italy at the end of the Euro finals. **SINISA MIHAJLOVIC** took over at Torino, while Udinese appointed **GIUSEPPE IACHINI** as Luigi De Canio's replacement.

Out of work since being sacked by Milan at the end of the 2014-15 season, **FILIPPO INZAGHI** will take charge of Italian third-tier side Venezia next term.

JOSE MOURINHO replaced Louis Van Gaal in charge of Manchester United, while **RONALD KOEMAN** left Southampton after two years to manage Everton.

RAFA BENITEZ, who started last season in charge of Real Madrid, agreed a permanent deal to manage Newcastle United, who were relegated from the Premier League. **ROBERTO DI MATTEO**, who led Chelsea to the Champions League in 2012, took charge of Aston Villa, who also went down.

WALTER MAZZARRI took over at Watford, replacing **QUIQUE SANCHEZ FLORES** who was named coach of Espanyol in Spain.

BRENDAN RODGERS joined Scottish champions Celtic, while **NEIL LENNON** was appointed manager of Scottish Cup winners Hibernian.

New Celt...Brendan Rodgers

In Ligue 1, **JOCELYN GOURVENNEC** was named coach of Bordeaux and was replaced at Guingamp by **ANTOINE KOMBOUARE**. **LUCIEN FAVRE** took over at Nice.

MARKUS WEINZIERL left Augsburg to replace Andre Breitenreiter as coach of Bundesliga rivals Schalke.

NUNO ESPIRITO SANTO replaced Jose Peseiro in charge of Porto.

Ajax appointed **PETER BOSZ** as coach after he led Maccabi Tel Aviv to second place in the Israeli league.

Former Georgia international **TEMUR KETSBAIA** was named coach of Greek Cup-winners AEK.

MIKE BUSKENS replaced Zoran Barisic as coach of Austrian league runners-up Rapid Vienna.

ASIA

Englishman **GARY WHITE** left his post as coach of Guam's national team to take charge of Chinese second-tier side Shanghai Shenxin.

V Sundramoorthy left Tampines Rovers to replace **BERND STANGE** as national coach of Singapore.

AFRICA

Frenchman **AUGUSTE RAUX** replaced Franck Rajaonarisamba as coach of Madagascar after a 6-1 loss at home to DR Congo in an African Nations Cup qualifier.

OUT

EUROPE

JAVIER GRACIA left Malaga, while Deportivo La Coruna sacked **VICTOR SANCHEZ**.

CLAUDE MAKELELE left his role as Monaco's technical director after just six months with the Ligue 1 side.

GIAN PIERO GASPERINI's reign as coach of Serie A side Genoa came to an end after three years.

MIRCEA REDNIC quit as coach of Romanian Cup runners-up Dinamo Bucharest.

Brondby's former Liverpool defender **DANIEL AGGER**, who won 75 caps for Denmark, retired at the age of 31 after suffering a series of injuries throughout his career.

Lucescu leaves Shakhtar

Gone...Mircea Lucescu leaves after 12 years

MIRCEA LUCESCU left Shakhtar Donetsk after 12 years in charge of the Ukrainian club and replaced Andre Villas-Boas as coach of Russian side Zenit. **PAULO FONSECA** left Portuguese Cup-winners Braga to replace him at Shakhtar.

CONCACAF

Former Burnley boss **OWEN COYLE** left MLS side Houston Dynamo to take charge of second-tier side Blackburn Rovers.

ASIA

Saudi Arabian side Al Hilal sacked Greek coach **GIORGOS DONIS**.

English coach **ASHLEY WESTWOOD** left Indian champions Bengaluru after two titles in the three years since their formation.

The Maldives terminated the contract of former New Zealand coach **RICKI HERBERT**.

Gone...Claude Makelele

Gunner...Granit Xhaka

Granit Xhaka joins Arsenal in early deal

Arsenal signed midfielder **GRANIT XHAKA** from German side Borussia Monchengladbach for a reported £30million. For all the other early summer transfers in Europe's top five leagues, go to **www.worldsoccer.com**

"I have not received any offer equalling the value of the buy-out clause, €94 million. Even in the case of a club offering that sum, he could still remain, because there is no other team that can offer him the passion and the importance that he is receiving here"

Napoli president Aurelio De Laurentiis (right) believes his club can keep hold of Gonzalo Higuain

Hit man... Luis Suarez

On target ...Benfica's Jonas

Sporting chance...Slimani

England's best... Harry Kane

Pos	NAME		Goals	Factor	Points
1	Luis Suarez	Barcelona	40	2	80
2	Gonzalo Higuain	Napoli	36	2	72
3	Cristiano Ronaldo	Real Madrid	35	2	70
4	Jonas	Benfica	32	2	64
5	Robert Lewandowski	Bayern Munich	30	2	60
6	Zlatan Ibrahimovic	Paris Saint-Germain	38	1.5	57
7	Islam Slimani	Sporting	27	2	54
8	Lionel Messi	Barcelona	26	2	52
9	Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang	Borussia Dortmund	25	2	50
	Harry Kane	Tottenham Hotspur	25	2	50
11	Sergio Aguero	Manchester City	24	2	48
	Karim Benzema	Real Madrid	24	2	48
	Neymar	Barcelona	24	2	48
	Jamie Vardy	Leicester City	24	2	48
15	Antoine Griezmann	Atletico Madrid	22	2	44
16	Nemanja Nikolic	Legia Warsaw	28	1.5	42
17	Vincent Janssen	AZ	27	1.5	40.5
	Eran Zahavi	Maccabi Tel Aviv	27	1.5	40.5
	Aritz Aduriz	Athletic Club Bilbao	20	2	40
	Thomas Muller	Bayern Munich	20	2	40
21	Mario Gomez	Besiktas	26	1.5	39
	Luuk De Jong	PSV	26	1.5	39
23	Gareth Bale	Real Madrid	19	2	38
	Ruben Castro	Real Betis	19	2	38
	Paulo Dybala	Juventus	19	2	38
	Konstantinos Mitroglou	Benfica	19	2	38

Pos	NAME		Goals	Factor	Points
27	Ilija Nestorovski	Inter Zapresic	25	1.5	37.5
28	Carlos Bacca	Milan	18	2	36
	Borja	Eibar	18	2	36
	Romelu Lukaku	Everton	18	2	36
31	Leo Bonatini	Estoril	17	2	34
	Javier Hernandez	Bayer Leverkusen	17	2	34
	Lucas	Deportivo La Coruna	17	2	34
	Riyad Mahrez	Leicester City	17	2	34
35	Alex Teixeira	Shakhtar Donetsk	22	1.5	33
36	Youssef El Arabi	Granada	16	2	32
	Kevin Gameiro	Sevilla	16	2	32
	Olivier Giroud	Arsenal	16	2	32
	Mauro Icardi	Internazionale	16	2	32
	Rafael Martins	Moreirense	16	2	32
41	Alexandre Lacazette	Lyon	21	1.5	31.5
	Arkadiusz Milik	Ajax	21	1.5	31.5
	Jonatan Soriano	Red Bull Salzburg	21	1.5	31.5
44	Leigh Griffiths	Celtic	31	1	31
45	Jermain Defoe	Sunderland	15	2	30
	Samuel Eto'o	Antalyaspor	20	1.5	30
	Odion Ighalo	Watford	15	2	30
	David Lafata	Sparta Prague	20	1.5	30
	Anthony Modeste	Cologne	15	2	30
	Fedor Smolov	Krasnodar	20	1.5	30

Keir RADNEDGE

THE INSIDER

UEFA contenders line up bids to succeed Platini

Embarrassed... Michael Van Praag

Ever since he became president of UEFA in 2007, Michel Platini had looked forward to the day when he would sit back in his plush place in the VIP box and lord it over the finals of the European Championship in his native France. It was to be his crowning glory.

Instead, Spain's Angel Maria Villar, a long-time political player but no lover of the high-profile, media-attended foreground, had to step up as an unofficial interim head of the European federation, courtesy of his status as senior vice-president.

Villar will be presiding in September, in Athens, when the newly expanded band of European FAs – now standing at 55, after the grudging welcome offered to Kosovo at congress in Budapest in May – will vote to pick a new leader.

Once upon a time, the obvious favourite to lead European football forward, to set down another three-year financial plan and snap shut the big clubs with another set of golden handcuffs, would have been Germany's Wolfgang Niersbach. But a bright future now lies many kilometres down the autobahn after he was unable to explain the mystery sums that were being shuffled around the bidding and hosting accounts of the German 2006 World Cup organisers.

> A dozen or more eastern block nations – a sort of footballing Warsaw Pact – are ready to support Aleksander Ceferin, president of the Slovenia FA

The only issue now surrounding Niersbach is his lucratively rewarded nerve in remaining a member of the UEFA executive committee, and hence the newly expanded FIFA Council. This, remember, is the same Niersbach who complained that his predecessor Theo Zwanziger clung on in the high councils of the governing bodies after being deposed – by Niersbach – as president of the German FA.

Niersbach's political demise has left the route clear for someone new.

First up was Dutch federation chief Michael Van Praag. The former Ajax president had started the sabre-rattling against Sepp Blatter at UEFA's pre-World Cup congress in Sao Paulo on the eve of the last World Cup. Blatter had wrapped up a triumphal, campaigning tour of confederation congresses at the European event only to find Van Praag leading a blunt chorus telling him it was time to quit.

Van Praag then stood briefly against Blatter in the 2015 election before withdrawing in favour of UEFA's preferred candidate, Prince Ali. Thus he considered himself first in line to pursue the UEFA presidency once Platini's appeal against a ban for financial misconduct had been rejected by the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

In the background, however, a groundswell of eastern European and Nordic discontent was growing. To some extent, this was a product of Platini's own vote-win schmoozing as he opened up the Champions League and European Championship to greater access from smaller nations and brought a host of their delegates into the UEFA committees. This has created a new power centre – and a power block which threatens serious difficulties for Van Praag. Hungarian federation president Sandor Csanyi enjoyed a busily impressive time as host to May's UEFA Congress in Budapest, which was especially appreciated because it had to be pushed back two months at short notice after the FIFA election complications.

The Hungarian government is throwing serious money into sport, as has been evidenced by Budapest's bid to win host rights to the Olympic Games in 2024. Budapest is a rank outsider by comparison – not so much with fragile Rome, more with hard-campaigning Paris and Los Angeles – but the fact that Hungarian sport is up among the big boys again is significant in terms of sports politics.

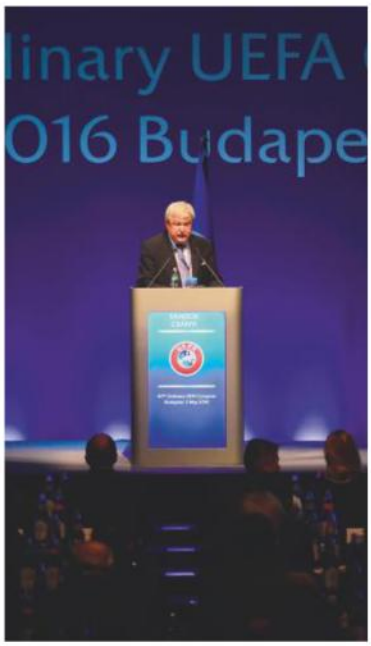
Even more threatening a rival to Van Praag is ambitious Aleksander Ceferin, president of the Slovenia FA. A dozen or more eastern

block nations – a sort of footballing Warsaw Pact – are ready to support the 48-year-old lawyer. Ceferin has indicated that he wants to shake up UEFA, though to what extent is probably limited in reality given that the purse strings are controlled, more or less, by the big clubs through the revenues of the Champions League.

Nominations have to be submitted by July 20. Van Praag had thought that he would achieve *fait accompli* by announcing an intention to stand during a meeting of the UEFA ExCo. Yet, to his acute embarrassment, such an endorsement was not forthcoming.

Indeed, Villar himself has also been considering whether to submit his name. He is finding his 26-year command in Spain under increasing pressure from critical opponents such as Sports Council president Miguel Cardenal and Liga president Javier Tebas.

Stepping away after winning the UEFA presidency would be a diplomatic way for Villar to detach himself from the maelstrom of Spanish football politics before it detaches itself from him.



Impressive...Sandor Csanyi at May's Congress

Hand over...Gianni Infantino (left) and Markus Kattner

Questions over FIFA cash

Sepp Blatter, as president, secretary-general Jerome Valcke and finance director Markus Kattner paid themselves $80million including bonuses for the last five years of their work as the senior officials of FIFA – which begs the question, how much did they earn in total?

To put that into some sort of perspective, only World Cup winners Germany took away a bigger bonus from Brazil in 2014 than Blatter's $13m.

Blatter's pay was negotiated and approved by a two-man committee, comprising himself and the chairman of the finance committee who, until death struck in the summer of 2014, was Argentina's footballing godfather Julio Grondona. African confederation president Issa Hayatou then stepped up into Grondona's position and signed whatever he was told to.

In 2015, of course, all hell was let loose and Swiss businessman Domenico Scala was imposed as chairman of a new audit and compliance committee. He had the authority to rein back on Blatter's bonuses in the wake of the FIFAGate and assorted scandals, but he had no authority to touch the contracts of Valcke and Kattner.

This latter point was glossed over by the American lawyers from Quinn Emanuel who brought forth the Blatter/Valcke/Kattner pay revelations. Indeed, Bill Burck from Quinn Emanuel suggested ever so gently that Scala might even have been at fault for missing a financial trick.

Sources close to the investigation into the Blatter pay revelations denied that their publication was timed deliberately to distract attention from the PR disaster that was Gianni Infantino's first 100 days in charge, but the fact it played a role in a wider strategy was close to confirmed when the new FIFA president launched an assault on Scala's "childish behaviour".

The impression that Infantino is still on probation as a major player in sports politics was confirmed when both he and athletics' embattled Sebastian Coe were overlooked for the standard places their presidencies usually earn for membership of the International Olympic Committee.

When Kattner followed Valcke earlier this year in being sacked, his contract guaranteed him, like Valcke, a multi-million pay-off plus an indemnity against every possible strand of legal action.

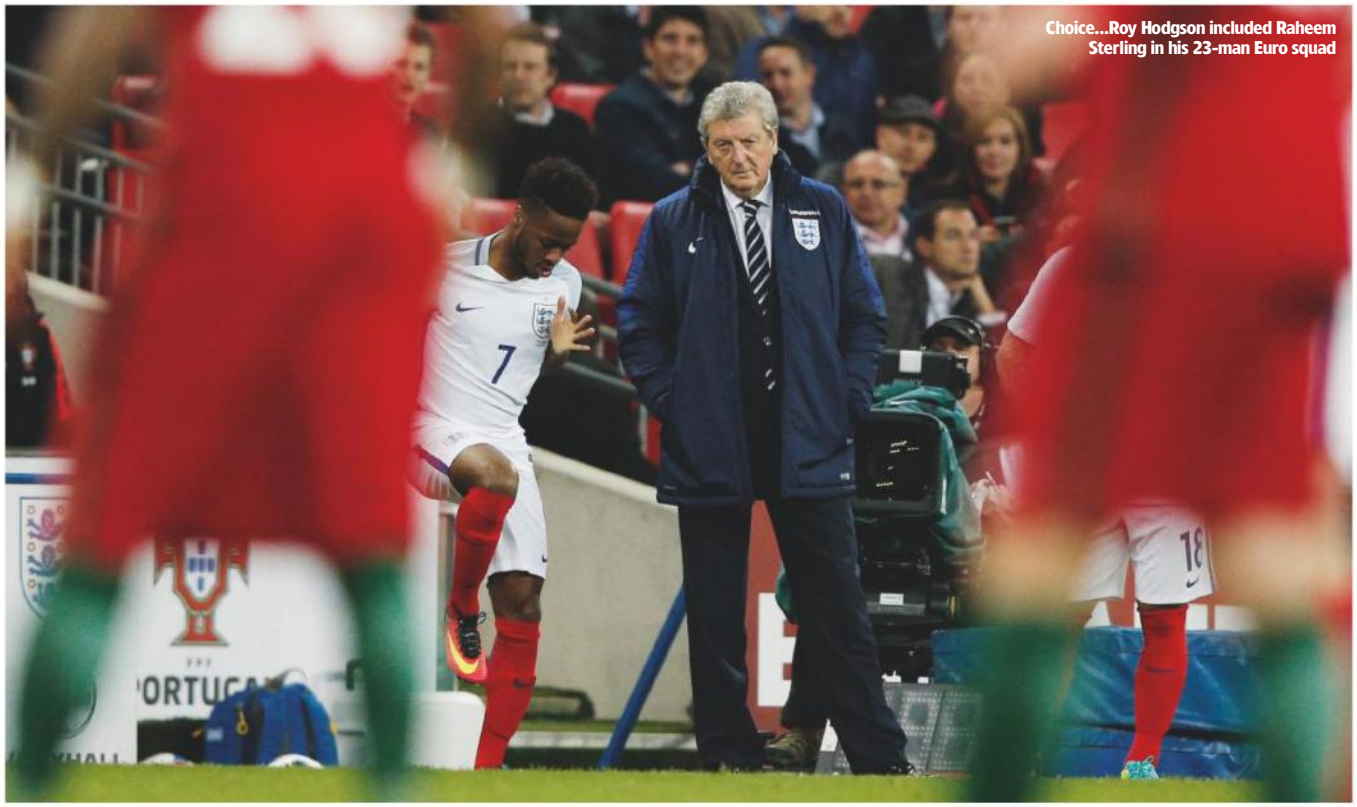
Intriguingly, in all of this the one man who did not have a blanket indemnity written into his contract was Blatter.

No wonder he does not fly anywhere near the United States.

Bonus...2014 World Cup winners Germany

Brian GLANVILLE

THE VOICE OF FOOTBALL



Choice...Roy Hodgson included Raheem Sterling in his 23-man Euro squad

More questions than answers for Hodgson ahead of Euro campaign

At the press conference which followed England's insipid display against a 10-man Portugal, Roy Hodgson seemed cheerfully optimistic about his side's chances in the European Championship this summer. But it was hard to imagine why.

His selection in that third and last game before the finals made little sense. After the game, I asked him about the exclusion from the squad of Andros Townsend, to which he simply replied that he could take only 23 players to France. Yet excluding Townsend seemed to fly in the face of logic, not least when it is remembered that it was Hodgson who had always encouraged him at international level.

Since Tottenham Hotspur and Mauricio Pochettino let him go, Townsend has worked wonders for Newcastle United, not least his destruction of his former club's defence in the astonishing game in which Newcastle, doomed to relegation, thrashed the aspirant Spurs 5-1, even though they were reduced to 10 men.

Raheem Sterling, who for weeks had been confined to the Manchester City bench, did get a place in the squad, and to be fair did well enough in his appearance as a substitute against Portugal, notably when he crossed from the left to set up that breathlessly late winning goal by Chris Smalling at Wembley against a depleted side without Cristiano Ronaldo.

Hodgson's selections that night were baffling. A three-man attack with Wayne Rooney, surely too advanced in years for such a role, at centre-forward. And Jamie Vardy stuck out and wasted on the left wing when he had spent the whole season triumphantly showing his prowess, pace and final execution as a central striker for Leicester City.

Non...winger Andros Townsend was not picked for France

As for the formation, Jack Wilshere had widely been expected to be operating just in front of the back line in a diamond, but he was deployed in central midfield when coming on late as a sub. He produced a series of shrewd passes under pressure, which shows how valuable he can be in a more advanced role. Provided, of course, that he can stay fit.

James Milner lasted the whole match in central midfield but it was hard to see why. Once a strong, elusive right-wing teenage prodigy, he is now hardly a midfielder "capable of inventing the game," as the Italians have it.

Heading injuries are a huge cause for concern

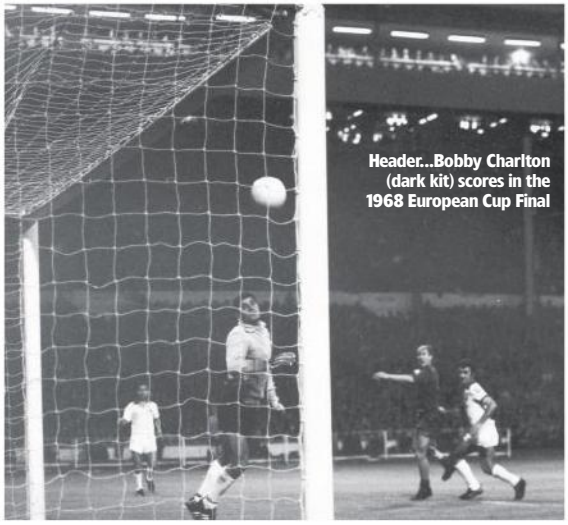
Worrying indeed that so many great players of the past are suffering from memory loss identified by a comprehensive medical enquiry and clearly the result of constantly heading the ball. The study raised the sad case of Jeff Astle, a notable header of the ball as centre-forward for West Bromwich Albion, who died some years ago after fearful degeneration to his brain, the palpable results of the infinite times he headed the ball.

The latest alarming list includes both Charlton brothers, Bobby and Jack, and Nobby Stiles. But the worrying list seems somewhat arbitrary. Jackie, yes, as a centre-back he was constantly heading the ball. But Bobby? He seldom headed it at all, though the exception which proved the rule came in the 1968 European Cup Final against Benfica at Wembley, when in fact, he back-headed a Manchester United near-post goal.

Ask not for whom the ball tolls, you might say, but the implications of the latest research are worrying. The irony being that some of the greatest British headers of the ball – Dixie Dean of Everton, 60 goals in a season, John Charles at Leeds, then with Juventus – are not recorded as having any subsequent problems.

So what can be done? Ban heading altogether? This would radically change the game. The appalling statistics from American gridiron football are in a category of their own; this is the sport in which so-called hitting is paramount.

Scores of former players are now taking legal action. I wish I could see a way ahead in soccer.



Header...Bobby Charlton (dark kit) scores in the 1968 European Cup Final

Infantino's FIFA is as filthy as ever

Riches...Joao Havelange has kept his wealth

"Don't say filth, say FIFA" might be an appropriate slogan; though at least Gianni Infantino's new regime has had the good sense to release sensational documents which tell us that Sepp Blatter and a couple of his cronies had been creaming vast amounts out of FIFA's funds.

Both the diligent Americans and the Swiss authorities, who have taken a long time to react to the scandal, are now pressing towards prosecution.

Meanwhile, the ultimate villain of the piece, Joao Havelange, relaxes with his vast ill-acquired wealth in his native Brazil. FIFA stripped him of his role as honorary president but that will not have bothered a man who for so many years respected the so-called 11th commandment, "Thou shalt not be found out."

Yet who, in all-too-recent football history, can escape blame? We now know that the Germans bought the 2006 World Cup finals and the South Africans bought them four years later. In a pathetic attempt to elude blame, South Africa's chief negotiator defended a £10million payment made to Jack Warner of Trinidad, insisting that it was meant to help the promotion of football in those islands. The Russians got away with buying the ensuing World Cup tournament, as have Qatar.

Infantino, who has declared there isn't enough evidence to take the World Cup away from Russia or Qatar, has been bolstering his own power at the expense of the various committees which now come under his aegis. So much for democracy. In his electoral pitch, he promised huge sums to the various FIFA countries, then hastily withdrew, but now seems to be contemplating such a bizarre move again. Just as FIFA accounts show that revenue has slipped £400m below expectations.

"The general uncertainty is affecting the morale of the FIFA team," complained Marcus Kattner, then the acting secretary-general, who is another of the three officials accused of stealing money.

Blame game...(from left) Michel Platini, Joao Havelange and Sepp Blatter

Recognition...Brian Glanville (below) was honoured at the Cross Sports Book Awards for his "outstanding contribution to sports writing".

Read Brian Glanville's exclusive online column at worldsoccer.com

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2015-16 SEASON REVIEW

THE STORIES OF 2015-16

From Hibernian's Scottish Cup victory to Darmstadt's great escape from relegation in Germany, we review some of the most eye-catching stories of the 2015-16 season

The 2015-16 season was not just about the usual suspects retaining their titles in Europe's biggest leagues. The likes of Bayern Munich, Paris Saint-Germain and Juventus may have extended their domestic dominance for another year, but there were some notable developments away from the mainstream: long-awaited Cup victories for Hibernian in Scotland and Braga in Portugal; relegation for one of Russia's most popular clubs, Dynamo Moscow, as well as Swiss Cup-winners Zurich; a miraculous escape from relegation by Bundesliga newcomers Darmstadt, and more controversy in Greece.

"Winning the Scottish Cup for them was incredible and something I'll remember till my dying day"
Hibernian manager Alan Stubbs

Party time...fans welcome Hibernian back to Edinburgh (main) after David Gray (below) scored the winner in the Scottish Cup Final at Hampden

SUN SHINES ON SONS OF LEITH

It had been called as the "mother of all victories", so, perhaps, it required a real mum to sum up the Hibernian rollercoaster and its postscript that no one had expected.

Just 11 days earlier, Judy Murray – whose son is the tennis champion Andy – had been at Hampden Park celebrating Hibs' stunning Scottish Cup Final triumph over Rangers.

Her father, Roy Erskine, had played for the club in the 1950s – so that was three generations of one family who had never seen Hibs win the Scottish Cup. But then again, no one had. However, 114 years after they last claimed it, the trophy finally returned to Easter Road, and with it manager Alan Stubbs and his players secured their place in the club's history.

One-nil up, then 2-1 down, Hibernian came from behind to win 3-2 with a stoppage-time header from skipper David Gray. Yet not even the plot twists of Hampden could match the turn of events on June 1 when Stubbs was unveiled as the new manager of Rotherham United.

Judy Murray felt compelled to tweet: "Rotherham? Really? Stubbsy?"

The chance for Stubbs to return closer to his family in England undoubtedly played a part in his decision, but so too is the fact that even the English Championship side will be able to spend 10 times what the Edinburgh club could.

"I am not sure I could ever do anything at Hibernian to get that impact again," said Stubbs. "Winning the Scottish Cup for them was incredible and something I'll remember till my dying day."

Often football people can be guilty of hyperbole but not Stubbs. On this occasion, the Hibs manager produced a victory that truly was out of the ordinary.

It was not just that Hibernian had not won the Scottish Cup since 1902, when they defeated Celtic; it was the fact they had also acquired the baggage of failure. Each season, another year was added to the number as Hibs once again slipped out of the competition.

Losing three Finals in the 21st century only added to the suffering: twice to Celtic, in 2001 and 2013, but most painfully to Edinburgh rivals Hearts, who crushed them 5-1 in 2012.

After 114 years of waiting, all that pent-up emotion spilled over when the final whistle went against Rangers. Hibs fans flooded onto the pitch, and after a few unsavoury scenes with rival supporters and players, they were back in the stands to give their heroes a 25,000-strong salute with a rendition of the club song *Sunshine on Leith*.

More than 150,000 people turned out on the streets of Edinburgh to welcome Stubbs' side back to the neighbourhood of Leith, where the club were founded.

Anthony Stokes, who scored twice in the Final, and Liam Henderson, who created two, have also left and are back at Celtic after their loans ended. But as Henderson said: "We have bonded for life."

Phil Gordon

POLITICAL BICKERING TURNS CUP INTO A FARCE

AEK may have won their first trophy since being declared bankrupt three years ago, but their 2-1 triumph over Olympiakos in the Greek Cup Final was played out in an empty stadium after the government tried its hardest to ban the competition's showpiece event.

Ever since coming to power a year ago, the country's deputy minister for sport, Stavros Kontonis, has brought in legislation designed to clean up a game that has been reeling with corruption and violence for years. However, Greek Football Federation president Giorgos Gkirtzikis believes that Kontonis has gone too far and now threatens the very existence of the federation.

And a Cup semi-final in March, between hosts PAOK and holders Olympiakos in Thessaloniki, saw that power struggle come to the fore.

> "The maladministration problem, opacity and corruption in Greek soccer is now well known"
> **Deputy minister for sport, Stavros Kontonis**

When crowd trouble in the 89th minute forced referee Andreas Pappas to suspend the game, Kontonis announced the following day that all the remaining cup games would be postponed as he feared violence would erupt again.

"Under the conditions that have been formed, and in particular the strong suspicion and questioning that lead to unrealiability in atrocities in pitches and disturbance of the social peace and legal order, I have decided the definitive cessation of any process and matches dealing with the Greek Cup as provided by law," said Kontonis.

He also queried the selection of officials for certain games and blamed the Greek federation, calling on them to "give meaningful answers and not to pretend to be affected".

Kontonis added: "The government is closely monitoring developments and those who do not take seriously our actions must be aware that it will not hesitate to go directly into further decisions."

But while Kontonis was slapping the federation in the face, football's governing bodies FIFA and UEFA were not pleased with him ignoring federation regulations, and demanded he reverse his decision about abandoning further cup action.

FIFA warned Greece that the cancelled competition must resume or the country would risk suspension from European and international competition.

FIFA set a deadline of April 15 for the Greek Cup to continue and, at the last possible moment, Kontonis backed down, saying he had received assurances from FIFA and UEFA that they would take an active role in restructuring and modernising Greek football.

Victorious...AEK celebrate their success

"The government's determination has been expressed by the Prime Minister [Alexis Tsipras] himself for the purification and transparency in soccer as requested by society, fans, officials and the media," said Kontonis. "The maladministration problem, opacity and corruption in Greek soccer is now well known."

Meanwhile, Gkirtzikis hit out at the government's meddling in the federation's affairs, saying that all 209 members of FIFA understand that soccer is played by certain rules. "Unfortunately in Greece we are in immediate danger of becoming Indonesia and Kuwait; to have the same fate," he explained.

However, having been given the go ahead for the semi-finals to resume, PAOK said they would not play the second leg against Olympiakos in Piraeus in protest at their punishment for the crowd violence in the first game – which took the shape of a 3-0 walkover loss, a deduction of three league points, a €100,000 fine and an order to play their next three home games behind closed doors.

When PAOK failed to turn up for the return at the Karaiskakis Stadium, Olympiakos were awarded another 3-0 walkover while PAOK were fined a further €10,000 and were docked another three points, which will be applied to next

Legislation...sports minister Stavros Kontonis

Empty...the 70,000-capacity Olympic Stadium

season's Superleague.

With Olympiakos through by default, Kontonis wanted the Final with AEK at the Athens Olympic Stadium on May 7 to be played with only students in attendance – something the federation rejected.

However, with a 48-hour general strike due to coincide with the Final, the police announced that they could not provide security on that day.

An announcement from Kontonis' office read: "By decision of deputy minister of sport Stavros Kontonis, the Greek Cup Final is postponed at the request of the Greek police and the Standing Committee Against Violence."

But the Greek media reported that this latest decision to call off the Final was also sparked by the federation's decision to change the linesmen for the contest at the last moment.

Eventually, the Final went ahead on May 17 in an empty 70,000-capacity Olympic Stadium.

"Today's Final is not what you would have expected," complained Gkirtzikis afterwards. "The stadium should have been full of life."

Kontonis did not even bother to attend.

Lou Economopoulos

Cup clash...AEK and Olympiakos (in red)

DYNAMO GO DOWN FOR FIRST TIME IN HISTORY

Dynamo Moscow, the only side from the capital to compete in every national championship, have been relegated for the first time in their 93-year history.

Russia's oldest football club, Dynamo were controlled by the KGB and were the first Soviet champions, in 1936. However, it is 40 years since they won a league title and next season they will be playing such teams as Sibir Novosibirsk and Tyumen.

Under the threat of UEFA fairplay sanctions, the club got rid of several big-name players, with French international Mathieu Valbuena going home to Lyon last summer, and domestic stars Yuri Zhirkov and Aleksandr Kokorin joining Zenit in January.

As a result, Dynamo had to turn to a group of 18-year-olds who, although they had topped the reserves' league, were unable to make their mark at senior level.

The financial and organisational turmoil also took its toll on the coaching staff, with Stanislav Cherchesov quitting before the start of the season and then taking Legia Warsaw to a Polish league-and-cup double. His replacement, Andrei Kobelev, was sacked before the end of the campaign, and it was a case of too little, too late for interim boss Sergei Chikishev to turn things round in the last weeks of the season.

At one point there were strong rumours that the number of teams in the Premier League next season would be increased from 16 to 18 in order to save Dynamo, but in the end they turned out to be nothing but stories – ones that the Russian Football Union president, Vitaliy Mutko, dismissed as "nonsense".

At the end of a wretched season for one of Russia's best supported clubs, the only saving grace is that they won't have to inaugurate their new home stadium in the second tier.

Since 2009 Dynamo have been playing in the Arena Khimki but their long-awaited new home is now set to open in October 2017 – giving the club one season to return to the Premier League.

Victor Gusev

> There were rumours the Premier League would be increased from 16 to 18 in order to save Dynamo

Going down... Dynamo's Roman Zobnin (right) and Fatos Beciraj in action against Zenit

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS FOR CUP HEROES BRAGA

Fifty years of hurt for Braga ended on a sunbathed afternoon at the Estadio Nacional in the Jamor sports complex, in Oeiras, near Lisbon. Fifty years to the very day.

And in a remarkable coincidence, the club won their second Portuguese Cup at the same venue where, exactly half a century earlier, Argentinian forward Miguel Perrichon had netted the only goal against Vitoria Setubal in the 1966 Final.

Braga had made it to the Final four times in the intervening years, losing on each occasion, and their fans must have feared the worst as another coincidence seemed to be playing out in Portugal's season-ending showpiece event.

As had happened the previous year, Braga saw a 2-0 lead wiped out. In 2015, it was Sporting who produced the stunning comeback and the Lisbon side went on to win on penalties. So when Andre Silva's superbly executed overhead kick in the 91st minute drew Porto level this term, it looked as though history may repeat itself.

But Braga weathered the storm in extra time and held their nerve in the shoot-out,

Final lead...Rui Fonte (centre) puts Braga ahead

with keeper Carlos Marafona producing two wonderful diving stops. When Marcelo Goiano became the fourth of four Braga players to coolly slot away his penalty, it triggered wild scenes of celebration among players, coaching staff and fans.

Braga may not have been at their best on the day, but no one can doubt it was a deserved triumph. On their way to lifting the trophy, Braga beat four of the teams that finished in the top six of the Primeira Liga. Paulo Fonseca's side also reached the quarter-finals of the Europa League, the semi-finals of Portugal's League Cup and had a solid Liga campaign.

But quite apart from what they achieved in a magnificent season, some major silverware had been long overdue to crown Braga's sustained ascension over the past decade under the astute presidency of Antonio Salvador.

Spot on...Marcelo Goiano celebrates

The emergence of a team that can consistently mix it with the country's traditional "*Tres Grandes*" of Benfica, Porto and Sporting has been one of the most positive developments for the game in Portugal since the turn of the millennium.

Only three times in the last 12 seasons have the "*Arsenalistas*" finished outside the top four – a run that also includes a runners-up spot and a third-place finish – and in that time they have also competed commendably in the Champions League, reached a Europa League Final and won the League Cup.

The club's on-field progress is mirrored in their stunning home arena, the Estadio Municipal de Braga, which is one of the world's most unusual and daring designs for a football venue, with the stadium chiselled out of a former quarry.

"It's an immensely joyful moment," said an emotional Salvador on the pitch after the Final with the cup in hand.

"The fans deserve this. Congratulations to the players."

The Braga supremo then demonstrated that he has no intention of slowing in his quest to take the club to ever greater heights.

"Can we win a championship?" he asked. "We know it's a tough task

> "Can we win a championship? We know it's a tough task but we can dream"
> **Braga president, Antonio Salvador**

Success... Braga end a 50-year wait for silverware

but we can dream."

They will have to do so, however, without the services of Fonseca, who has replaced Mircea Lucescu in charge of Ukrainian club Shakhtar Donetsk.

Yet losing their coach is unlikely to check Braga's progress. The club has been the launch-pad for many of Portugal's best tacticians, including Leonardo Jardim, Jorge Jesus and Jesualdo Ferreira, who all thrived at the quarry before going on to achieve success at bigger clubs.

Whoever's in the dugout next season, one thing is certain: Braga will again be competing toe to toe with Portugal's finest.

Tom Kundert

WHITE STAR FALL FOUL OF A TOP-FLIGHT CONSPIRACY

With the Belgian second division set to deliver the most exciting finish in its history, events off the pitch changed the course of events, not once but three times. Ultimately, it ended in tears for the "champions", celebrations in Qatar and recriminations all round.

Going into the final weekend of the season, Eupen and Royal Antwerp were joint top with 61 points, with White Star Brussels just one point behind. And the top two were to meet at Antwerp's Bosuil stadium, while White Star had a relatively easy home game.

The three clubs are dramatically different. Royal Antwerp are the oldest club in Belgium but have been out of the top flight for over a decade; White Star Brussels average around 500 fans at home games; and Eupen are owned by Qatar's Aspire Academy as part of that country's blueprint for success at the 2022 World Cup.

White Star Brussels average 500 fans at home games, while Eupen are owned by Aspire Academy as part of Qatar's blueprint for success at the 2022 World Cup

White Star approached the end of the season with some trepidation as their request for a professional licence had been refused due to outstanding debts and no approved stadium to play in. Added to that, Seraing fielded an ineligible player against them in February and a decision on the case had yet to be given.

Five days before the last games of the season, White Star were awarded a win against Seraing, rather than the actual draw, and those two extra points put the team top of the league by one point. Or they would have been if the Belgian Football Association hadn't suspended the Appeal Committee's decision.

That decision meant Eupen were leaders again and, ominously, it was announced that the judgment on White Star's licence request would not be announced until the season has ended.

On the final day, Antwerp draw 0-0 with Eupen in a match marred by fighting between Antwerp fans and the local police, while White Star won to clinch the title by one point, rendering the verdict on the match with Seraing meaningless.

But as White Star celebrated, their joy was short-lived as their appeal over the application for a professional licence was rejected and it was ruled that they could not play professional football.

Eupen were therefore promoted, on goal difference, ahead of Antwerp.

No reasons are given as to why White Star had been refused a professional licence. Since their original submission, they had reached an agreement with Molenbeek council to share RWDM's ground and their debts were not thought to be life-threatening. But 10 days after the final decision, it was announced that the application had been rejected due to concerns about White Star's long-term future.

Big noise..White Star's Frederic Duplus with fans

White Star's boss is John Bico, the former agent of Eden and Thorgan Hazard. He refused to accept the decision and threatened the FA with legal action. White Star also accused the chairman of the Licence Committee of racism, claiming that he said the club would never get a licence with a "big black" in charge – an accusation that is strongly denied.

Eupen's promotion has left suspicions that White Star are not wanted as they wouldn't bring any added value to the league, whereas Qatari-backed Eupen – or the well-supported Royal Antwerp – would be welcomed with open arms.

John Chapman

BUNDESLIGA MIRACLE AS DARMSTADT SURVIVE

Darmstadt are living proof that underdogs do not necessarily have to give in to the odds, and their survival mission will forever be regarded as one of the Bundesliga's most compelling tales.

Back in August, as the club prepared for a first taste of top-flight action for 33 years, every indicator seemed to point to the briefest of encounters with the great and the good of the German footballing elite. They had the league's smallest budget of just €16million, a squad full of journeymen and cast-offs that was estimated to be worth 1/20th of Bayern Munich's, three key defenders opting to bail out during the summer, and their rustic Bollenfaltor ground in disrepair and short on comfort.

In the opinion of many, Darmstadt bore all the hallmarks of one of the Bundesliga's worst-ever teams, possibly even weak enough to emulate the infamous efforts of Tasmania Berlin, who in 1965-66 managed just eight points, conceded 101 goals and went 31 games without a win.

Safe..Darmstadt fans salute their heroes

What the naysayers had failed to factor in, though, was the indomitable Darmstadt spirit, and the unique ability to recruit and organise of coach-cum-general-manager Dirk Schuster, the driver of their incredible journey from the depths of the German third tier to the top flight.

Schuster's recipe for avoiding a quick return to the second division did not especially please the purists, relying heavily on a diet of long balls, huff and puff, set-piece threat and tactical fouls. Yet, more often than not the plan worked, with their supposedly more skilful opponents outrun, outfought and outfoxed.

Resilient, defiant, cohesive and ready to fight until the bitter end, Schuster's side did not spend a single week in the bottom three, and en route to finishing a highly respectable 14th they never lost more than two games in a row.

It was an extraordinary achievement given their meagre resources – and a far from ordinary 2015-16 balance sheet, scoring a mere 38 goals in 34 Bundesliga fixtures, winning just two games at home but, by way of contrast, picking up no fewer than 26 points on the road, a figure only bettered this term by the top three of Bayern, Borussia Dortmund and Bayer Leverkusen.

Battle...Darmstadt's Peter Niemeyer (left) beats Daniel Caligiuri of Werder Bremen

"People can now see we're no Tasmania Berlin," declared Schuster, a former gritty, never-say-die East German international defender. "We undoubtedly have our own special brand of football, but have proved that it can be successful and can make life very hard for opponents."

Within this most tight-knit band of guerrilla troops, three players stood out: wide man and counter-attacking leader Marcel Heller; central defensive rock and skipper Aytac Sulu; and former German under-21 striker, Sandro Wagner, who

> "We undoubtedly have our own special brand of football, but have proved that it can be successful and can make life very hard for opponents"
> Darmstadt coach, Dirk Schuster

contributed 14 goals to the cause.

"This season we've produced the eighth wonder of the world," smiled Heller. "There can't be anything better than doing something of note here.

"We've shown that a team which works well together and is effective can do without the big money."

Nick Bidwell

Determined...Aytac Sulu (left) and Dirk Schuster

ZURICH WIN CUP BUT CAN'T AVOID THE DROP

Pressure... Lugano's Domen Crnigoj is crowded out in the Swiss Cup Final

With Basle winning their seventh successive league title, the real interest in Switzerland was at the bottom of the table, where Lugano and Zurich battled to avoid relegation yet also met in the Cup Final.

In the space of five days, 12-times champions Zurich were relegated after finishing a point behind Lugano but then won the Cup for a ninth time, with a 1-0 win over the same opponents.

Zurich had been hovering perilously above last place for most of the season, but after a 4-0 home defeat against Lugano they slumped to the bottom with three matches to go. Sami Hyppia was sacked and Uli Forte, who had been fired by Young Boys five games into the season, replaced him as coach.

Lugano went into the last league game a point ahead of Zurich and ensured their survival with a 3-0 victory over St Gallen, rendering their rivals' 3-1 win against Vaduz in vain.

"I have never experienced anything like that," said Forte. "I could have said that I was going to live off my wages from YB until the end of the month, without risking anything or getting my fingers burned. But I am someone who seeks and accepts challenges. That is part of football and what makes it so interesting."

Zurich's relegation triggered an angry reaction from their fans at the Letzigrund. There was an attempt to storm the Zurich dressing room, where police had to protect the players, and fans also ran riot in various parts of the city.

The Cup Final was also played at the Letzigrund in a distinctly uncomfortable atmosphere. Zurich's celebrations were extremely muted and only two players ventured towards their fans at the end.

Lugano were promoted last season and had appointed Zdenek Zeman, the chain-smoking Czech who has coached more than 12 clubs in Italy – where he is famous for an attacking philosophy that many say verges on the reckless.

Almost inevitably, Lugano finished with the worse defensive record in the league, shipping 75 goals in 36 games. It was typically topsy-turvy stuff as they lost 6-1 to Grasshoppers early in the campaign, yet beat the same opponents 4-1 and 1-0 in their next meetings. Their two home matches with Sion ended in a 3-0 win and 6-0 defeat, while their away games to Young Boys ended in a 1-0 win and 7-0 defeat. Then there was the 5-3 defeat at Zurich, a 5-2 defeat against Vaduz and a 3-3 draw against St Gallen.

> "I have never experienced anything like that"
> **Zurich coach, Uli Forte**

Up and down...Zurich

The Cup Final had been Zeman's chance to win the first major title of his career. Lugano dominated the first half but Mattia Bottani's penalty was saved by Anthony Favre, and Sangone Sarr then gave Zurich the lead.

Lugano hit a post in the second half but could not find an equaliser. All in all, it was a typical day in "Zemanlandia".

Brian Homewood

FIXTURE CONFUSION OVER TWENTE'S CONTESTED RELEGATION

In limbo...Twente's Renato Tapia (in blue)

When the fixtures for next season in Holland were published, Feyenoord's opening-day opponents were Twente/Graafschap. They were not a new team but a reference to the ongoing battle between the KNVB and FC Twente, one of the country's best-known clubs.

Twente are in limbo. At the end of last season they were forcibly relegated from the Eredivisie by the KNVB for financial irregularities. Despite finishing 13th in the league, they were demoted and De Graafschap, who lost a relegation play-off to Go Ahead Eagles, stayed up.

After losing a legal challenge, Twente have launched a last-ditch appeal to the federation, hence the compromised Twente/Graafschap on the fixture list.

Twente's chances of winning the appeal look slim. The Enschede club say they have done everything the KNVB asked for in order to keep their pro licence. They started to clean up the financial mess, mostly caused by former chairman Joop Munsterman, and had replaced the old board. But that was not enough to please the federation – and then details of new transfer irregularities emerged, much to the annoyance of the KNVB.

The whole matter started in 2011 when Twente lost their title on the last day of the season to Ajax. In order to keep up with Holland's top three, the megalomanic and aristocratic Munsterman decided to take risks. Newly contracted players were offered wages the club couldn't afford. So Munsterman turned to a third-party investor, Doyen, for cash. Later it emerged that Doyen, in return for its investment, would receive a percentage of the transfer fees of seven players.

> De Graafschap also don't know where they will be playing next season, making it hard to plan transfers

That gave Doyen a considerable say in Twente's transfer policy – which is strictly forbidden by the KNVB.

Perhaps even worse were the methods used for the transfer of Dusan Tadic to Southampton in summer 2014.

Of the €3.6m that was agreed with the player's agent, a fee of €1.8million was deliberately kept off the club's books – despite the fact that the KNVB were already monitoring watching Twente's financial activities. It is this deception that the football authorities took most exception to. However, since the KNVB decided a fine would be too light a punishment and withdrawal of Twente's professional licence too heavy a sanction, a new rule was invented.

The KNVB decided to withhold Twente's top-flight licence in return for a second-tier licence, effectively relegating Twente. But the feeling in Holland is that had it been a smaller club causing this fraud its licence would have been withdrawn permanently.

Meanwhile, the Eredivisie clubs unanimously voted that Twente should accept the verdict, offering television money as compensation. However, the second-tier clubs pleaded that Twente should stay in the Eredivisie, fearing a relegated Twente would be too powerful for their division.

The uncertainty does not just relate to Twente. De Graafschap also don't know where they will be playing next season, making it hard for the Doetinchem club to plan summer transfers.

A Dutch court rejected Twente's claims that their relegation would be illegal, paving the way for a last-ditch appeal to the football authorities.

The KNVB insist that next season cannot go ahead with 19 teams in the top division, hence the fixture-list fudge.

The whole affair is not over yet.

Klaas-Jan Droppert

Big plans...Joop Munsterman (left) took Steve McClaren to Twente as coach

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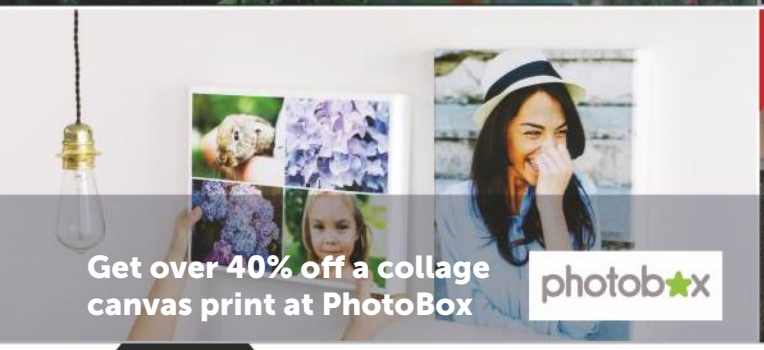

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Keir Radnedge

Eleventh heaven

Real are champions of Europe again

Midfield battle... Real's Casemiro (left) and Koke

Victorious...Real Madrid celebrate

From Hector Rial's two goals in 1956, Paco Gento's extra-time winner in 1958, and Alfredo Di Stefano and Ferenc Puskas' demolition of Eintracht Frankfurt in 1960; to Pedja Mijatovic's piercing of Juventus in 1998, Zinedine Zidane's momentous volley in 2002 against Bayer Leverkusen and Sergio Ramos' late, late leveller in Lisbon in 2014: Real Madrid's greatest successes have always offered a platform for individual brilliance.

And so it was that their record-extending 11th victory in the European Cup/Champions League was secured with Cristiano Ronaldo's decisive penalty.

The experience for the losers, Atletico Madrid, could not have been more bitter, having lost in their two previous Finals in a replay (to Bayern Munich in 1974) and in extra-time (to Real in 2014). This latest failure, in a penalty shoot-out, was even closer, with Juanfran scuffing his shot against Keylor Navas' right-hand post.

Juanfran's spot-kick miss handed Ronaldo his latest moment of glory and prompted Atletico coach Diego Simeone to later say: "Football is destiny and destiny was not with us tonight." Fate, instead, favoured Ronaldo.

The Portuguese had, however, been largely anonymous throughout the previous 120 minutes, and Karim Benzema saw more of the game before being substituted towards the end of normal time. Ronaldo even missed an opportunity to kill off the game with a second goal.

In front...skipper Sergio Ramos (no4) opens the scoring for Real Madrid

Early on, Real had appeared capable of winning comfortably. The previous day they had worked on set-pieces and they reaped a deserved reward after 15 minutes. An angled delivery from wide on the left by Toni Kroos was followed into the box by a posse of white shirts, with Bale applying a touch and Ramos finishing it off.

Yet after that, the urgency faded from Real's game and Atletico chased them

So close...Real keeper Keylor Navas is beaten, but Juanfran's spot-kick hits the post and goes wide

down in every sector of the pitch. Juanfran shot too high and Antoine Griezmann saw one effort caught easily by Navas while another skidded wide.

Real coach Zinedine Zidane prowled the touchline; his every step and gesture expressing irritated frustration at being chained to a dotted white line these days rather than roaming free across the pitch as in times past.

And his fears proved justified at the start of the second half when Pepe pushed Fernando Torres in the back to concede a penalty. Navas was shown a yellow card for time-wasting gamesmanship but it had the desired effect as Griezmann thumped his spot-kick against the bar. The ball bounced down in front of goal and away to safety.

It was the second time this season Griezmann had fluffed a penalty against Navas.

As Simeone waved his arms over his head, urging Atletico's fans to raise the cacophony, Dejan Savic and Saul Niguez both went close.

Real gained some breathing space by camping in Atletico territory for a while, and Benzema and Ronaldo should both have done better with only Oblak to beat, while Bale had an effort cleared off the line by Juanfran.

Atletico then charged back down the pitch and scored at last, substitute Yannick Ferreira Carrasco steering home Juanfran's volleyed cross for an equaliser they well deserved. Atletico's hero then ran off the pitch for an embrace from his girlfriend, a former Miss Belgium, before returning to help Atletico take the Final into extra time, just as they had done two years ago in Lisbon.

Weary Real were now playing largely from memory, albeit supported by the fresh legs of subs Lucas Vazquez and Isco. As extra time ran on even Atletico's battling stalwarts began to flag and were doomed to penalties.

Every spot-kick was converted up until the eighth by Juanfran, which allowed Ronaldo to apply the coup de grace.

"You know that penalties are always a lottery," Ronaldo said afterwards. "You never know what's going to happen.

"But we had the most experience and it showed so that made it a fantastic night.

"It was difficult, by the end of the season people are not as fit any more. I have played more than 4,000 minutes this season.

"I was the number one in the team again for most minutes. That means a lot to me.

"It means I am still good. I am always there – for the good moments and the bad moments.

"I have scored more than 50 goals every season for the last seven years.

"I feel good and I love to play for Real Madrid. I want to carry on."

Ronaldo became the highest-paid player in history when he signed a five-season deal worth a basic €105million in 2013, and he will now follow up a 16-goal Champions League campaign with negotiations for a further extension.

With Real facing the prospect of a transfer-market ban, the club appear to have little option but agree to whatever the demands of a player who has scored a club record 360 goals. WS

Support... Atletico coach Diego Simeone with Juanfran

Match winner... Cristiano Ronaldo

May 28, 2016, Milan: Champions League Final
Real Madrid 1 (Ramos 15)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Ferreira Carrasco 79)
HT: 1-0 **Att:** 71,942 **Ref:** Clattenburg (Eng)
Real Madrid: Navas; Carvajal (Danilo 52), Pepe, Ramos, Marcelo; Modric, Casemiro, Kroos (Isco 72); Bale, Benzema (Vazquez 77), Ronaldo. Coach: Zidane
Atletico Madrid: Oblak; Juanfran, Savic, Godin, Luis (Hernandez 109); Niguez, Fernandez (Ferreira Carrasco 46), Gabi, Koke (Partey 116); Griezmann, Torres. Coach: Simeone
Penalties: (Real first) Vazquez 1-0, Griezmann 1-1; Marcelo 2-1, Gabi 2-2; Bale 3-2, Niguez 3-3; Ramos 4-3, Juanfran hits post; Ronaldo 5-3.

WHAT THEY SAID

ZINEDINE ZIDANE
Real Madrid coach
"I had dreamed about this success. The president gave me the opportunity to coach this great club because I have a very positive attitude. Also, I really believe in hard work. Possibly it's more important even than quality.

"This Final could easily have gone the other way.

"Both teams have to be congratulated for their hard work. Maybe we had that extra bit. We had a couple more chances for a second goal but didn't manage it.

"Ronaldo wasn't injured as some people have said. He was out there just like all the others who brought us our victory. He was OK, he fought it out and ran a lot like everyone else. He's always very positive in helping his team-mates.

"Carlo Ancelotti said to me: 'If you have a chance of winning the Champions League as head coach you'll see what it feels like. It's nothing like winning as a player. It's very special."

DIEGO SIMEONE
Atletico Madrid coach
"I love my players and they gave everything they have – as they always do.

"I said to them afterwards: 'Don't cry because you made an enormous effort to get this far and football is a question of destiny and today destiny wasn't on our side.'

"What's clear is that no one remembers losers. Losing two finals is a failure but we have to get over this and heal our wounds."

Jonathan Wilson

Out of character

In Milan, Atletico Madrid were uncharacteristically lax in midfield

Nobody has done more than Diego Simeone to take Atletico Madrid away from their loser stereotype. Before the Argentinian became coach, they had been a side that always found a way to lose from nowhere, a team that specialised in failure on the biggest stage – particularly when it came to their city rivals, Real Madrid.

Simeone has added toughness and organisation, and made them a combative but skilful team. And yet it turns out that, for all his successes, all he has done is to elevate the stage on which they fail. Twice in three seasons they have come desperately close to beating Real in a Champions League Final. And twice they have lost.

Tactical foul...Sergio Ramos (hidden) stops Yannick Ferreira Carrasco

Two years ago they surrendered an injury-time equaliser; this time they missed a penalty and were beaten in a shoot-out. Simeone's achievements are remarkable, but it may be that he has ended up giving Atletico even greater neuroses than they had when he arrived.

Atletico's problems in this year's Final came in the first half. Their strength under Simeone has been compactness: the way the forwards drop deep to support two banks of four that usually play extremely close together. This season, there has been an attempt to introduce more pressing into Atletico's game, with a 24 per cent increase in the number of times they've regained possession in the middle or final third of the pitch compared to last term. However, the vital factor has been that the midfield and defence have played close together.

Threat...Luca Modric (right) gets away from Fernando Torres

Before half-time in the Final in Milan there was space. The back four seemed needlessly deep, with the two forwards oddly high, and the result was Atletico's midfield, which was always likely to be vulnerable to the passing ability of Luka Modric and Toni Kroos, was left with too much to do.

The day before the game, Simeone had talked about Real's Brazilian midfielder Casemiro and his ability to launch counter-attacks. It may be that he instructed his defence to play deeper than usual to stop balls being played in behind them for Gareth Bale and Cristiano Ronaldo to run onto, or it may simply have been a case of his players' nerves affecting judgement. Either way, Real dominated possession in the first half, which had always been likely, but they also looked by far the more dangerous side.

Casemiro's own positioning was intriguing. When Atletico had the ball, he dropped so deep that he was almost

Tough...Atletico boss Diego Simeone

Defensive...Atletico start with a deep 4-4-2 set-up

Switch...a 4-2-3-1 is adopted after the break

Decision... Zinedine Zidane

Replaced...the loss of Toni Kroos helped Atletico's cause

operating between the two central defenders. But when Real had the ball, he pushed forward, with Modric and Kroos pulling deep and wide. That meant he left a position where he could comfortably be dealt with by the Atletico forwards and put even more pressure on Atletico's central pair of Gabi and Augusto Fernandez.

At the same time, Karim Benzema kept dropping deep, further disrupting Atletico's structure so that the full-backs ended up playing extremely narrow. That, in turn, gave Real's full-backs the opportunity to advance, often released by raking balls out to the flank. Atletico just about survived but at the cost of free-kicks conceded, which led to Sergio Ramos' goal.

Simeone made a major change at half-time, replacing Fernandez with Yannick Ferreira Carrasco and shifting to a 4-2-3-1 with Koke pushed up behind Fernando Torres and Antoine Griezmann out on the right. That allowed Atletico to maintain their width and put pressure on the Madrid full-backs, who are always vulnerable to being isolated given how little protection they get from Bale and Ronaldo.

After an initial surge that brought the missed penalty and Stefan Savic's chance, Real seemed to have settled, but the injury to Daniel Carvajal and the replacement of Kroos with Isco handed the initiative back to Atletico. Danilo, who came on at right-back, looked extremely nervous, while the loss of Kroos' passing ability allowed Atletico to regain possession more quickly.

Atletico's equaliser was scored by Ferreira Carrasco, who got on top of Danilo, but it stemmed from Ronaldo's unwillingness to track back – which is a common problem.

Although he ended up scoring the winning penalty, the Portuguese had a poor game and never looked fit. That Zinedine Zidane didn't substitute him seemed to say a lot about the dynamic of the squad. As Juanfran went forward, Isco came across to cover what should have been Ronaldo's man, which in turn left Gabi free to dink through the pass for Juanfran to cross.

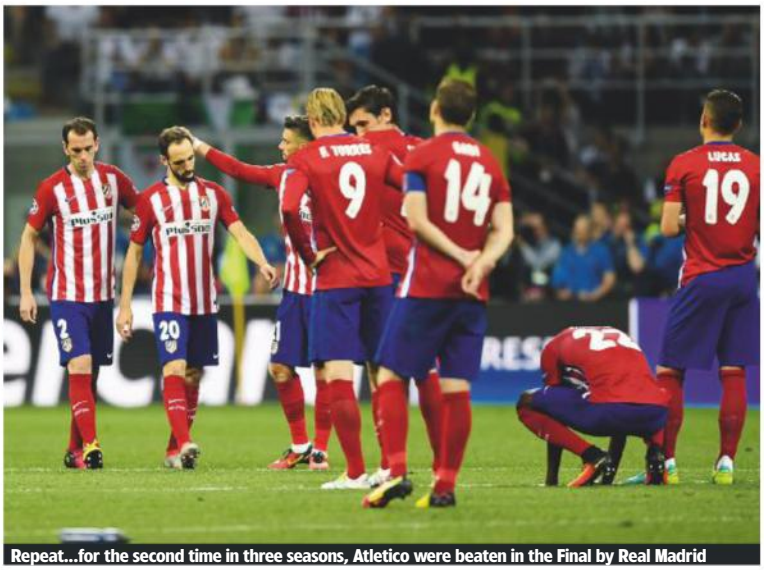
Having equalised, Atletico had the better of it but had three promising breaks ended by tactical fouls. In retrospect, they could perhaps have done more to take the game to Madrid, who looked exhausted. The defence still seemed very deep, as though Simeone's concerns about counter-attacks still dominated the mentality, even though with Ronaldo fatigued, Bale was the only real threat.

And so, as is so often the case, extra-time passed almost without incident other than a lot of stoppages for exhausted players to receive treatment.

Penalties rarely come within the aegis of tactical analysis, but Gabi's decision to let Madrid take the first penalty seemed odd – as numerous studies have shown, around 60 per cent of the teams going first win. But really, the game was lost in the first half, as Atletico effectively gave Madrid the run of the game.

They probably had the better of it after half-time, although Oblak made two good saves, but by then Real had an advantage to defend. Whether it was an error of instruction from Simeone or anxiety-induced laxity, Atletico produced probably their least characteristic performance of the season in the first half. There could be no worse time to slip up. WS

Booked...Gabi



Repeat...for the second time in three seasons, Atletico were beaten in the Final by Real Madrid

Keir Radnedge

Sevilla make history

Emery's side win three-in-a-row

Having taken part in the third season of the Champions Cup, in 1957, Sevilla have been competing in European competition far longer than most clubs. And it is a pedigree that was, perhaps, overlooked by many observers as they won a third successive Europa League to make it five Europa League/UEFA Cup titles in total.

Liverpool brought their own history to the occasion – as well as the emotion generated by the recent vindication of the Hillsborough inquest and the force of nature that is their manager, Jurgen Klopp, who arrived in England seven months ago.

Unai Emery's Sevilla enjoyed a little fortune in the first half, when they might have trailed by two goals rather than one, but they demonstrated enough nerve and confidence in their own game to thwart the Klopp mantra of ultra-energetic dynamism.

And for many of the dejected Liverpool fans in Basle, there may have been a realisation that their team needs more than the united passion of their fervour in the stands and Klopp's *gegenpressing* on the pitch to match not only the best in Europe but the best in England. "They played long balls to avoid our pressing," explained the German afterwards, as if the Spanish side had cheated by not playing into Liverpool's hands.

This had been a rerun of Klopp's experience with Borussia Dortmund in the Bundesliga: hard work in both training and matchplay can achieve so much – but, around the pinnacle of the game, the quality of your players makes the ultimate difference between winning and losing league titles and cup finals.

Quick reply...Kevin Gameiro celebrates his equaliser

The negative legacy of defeat for Liverpool means exclusion from Europe next season. And while on one hand that gives Klopp – with five successive Finals defeats to his name – more time on the training ground, an absence of Champions League football not only stifles the club's transfer-market ambitions but may also raise an impatience level among their own players.

At St Jakob-Park, Sevilla were quicker into their stride, as if trying to prove that they too could raise the tempo. Yet, for all their neat passing in and around defence and midfield, they lacked the cohesion and perception to make attacking inroads.

The game's first meaningful shot was a 25-yard drive from Liverpool's Emre Can which tested keeper David Soria, diving to his right. Then Nathaniel Clyne's cross from the right, headed down at goal by Daniel Sturridge, was hooked away to safety by Daniel Carrico.

Quality...Coke (centre) puts Sevilla ahead

Ominously, however, Liverpool remained unable to stifle the peripatetic Ever Banega, with his vision and imaginative link-up play. Sevilla, gaining in confidence, forced a couple of corners in a spell of pressure which ended with an overhead kick from Kevin Gameiro skidding narrowly wide of Simon Mignolet's right-hand post.

Ten minutes before the interval, Liverpool's riposte was perfect. Philippe Coutinho, too quiet otherwise, provided the lay-off and Sturridge took a couple of touches before a shot with the outside of his left foot put his side in front.

With Liverpool having had three claims for handball dismissed by referee Jonas

On a roll...two-goal hero and Sevilla captain Coke lifts the Europa League trophy in Switzerland

Eriksson, Klopp might have felt his side were unlucky to be just the one goal ahead. And their failure to add to their lead was punished inside 16 seconds of the second half.

Emery had read the first half sufficiently to make decisive changes at half-time. Vitolo, on the left, shut down the chasm into which Clyne had been dashing, while Mariano took advantage of the attacking tendencies of Sevilla old boy Alberto Moreno. The Brazilian full-back tore a hole through Liverpool's left flank and his low cross was tapped home by Gameiro. The Frenchman should have scored a second just before the hour when Liverpool's defence fell open again, but his hasty swipe at a left-wing cross ricocheted off Mignolet and over the bar for a corner.

Suddenly Sevilla were in command – and then in the lead.

Vitolo cut in from the left, was allowed to exchange return passes twice, and only relinquished control when Coke stepped across him and fired home.

Growing concern on the Liverpool bench was evidenced by the introduction of Divock Origi for the ineffective Roberto Firmino – and that concern was justified as Sevilla immediately went 3-1 ahead with a controversial goal from Coke. Liverpool raged that the Sevilla skipper had been offside in the build-up, and that the linesman had flagged, but ref Eriksson awarded the goal, correctly as TV replays were to show.

This was not in Klopp's script, but the truth was Sevilla had not only been playing the better football throughout the second half, they had been defending better.

The longer the game went on, the more untidy and unhappy Liverpool looked, with their substitutions only making matters worse. The vast majority of Liverpool fans could not even find it in themselves to hang around and offer their team any consoling cheers as they trudged off into the Basle night.

With no formal segregation at the end occupied by Sevilla fans, there had been skirmishes between opposing supporters. The slow-arriving police eventually provided a human barrier between the two sets of fans, but this merely exemplified the general organisational failings for which UEFA should fine itself. It can no longer, after all, suspend its president as punishment.

Basle was an inadequate venue for the Final on several levels.

St Jakob-Park is too small a stadium to host a major European Final and UEFA should beware of under-selling its own event in future. Now that Michel Platini is not around, needing to curry electoral favour from Europe's middle-ranking nations is no longer necessary and venues should no longer be chosen for apparently political reasons.

Not only was the stadium not up to the task but neither was the city itself, with a notable shortfall in terms of accommodation, public transport options and capabilities.

Not, of course, that Sevilla cared. They played and partied their way into the record books, with three successive cups and the bonus of a place in the Champions League. WS

All over...Coke gets his second

Weak...Liverpool's Philippe Coutinho is beaten in the air

May 18, 2016, Basle
Europa League Final
Sevilla 3 (Gameiro 46, Coke 64, 70)
Liverpool 1 (Sturridge 35)
HT: 0-1 **Att:** 34,429 **Ref:** Eriksson (Swe)
Sevilla: Soria; Mariano, Rami (Kolodziejczak 78), Carrico, Escudero; Krychowiak, N'Zonzi; Coke, Banega (Cristoforo 90), Vitolo; Gameiro (Iborra 89). Coach: Emery
Liverpool: Mignolet; Clyne, Lovren, Toure (Benteke 82), Moreno; Milner, Can; Lallana (Allen 73), Firmino (Origi 69), Coutinho; Sturridge. Manager: Klopp

WHAT THEY SAID

UNAI EMERY
Sevilla coach
"We love this competition. We wanted it so much. It is our competition.

"It's like we are married to it.

"Liverpool played well in the first half, but we organised our minds at the break and we knew why we had reached this stage. We had to think that the neutral pitch was the Sanchez Pizjuan, that we were in Seville – and then the team took off.

"It's one more reason why I am very happy here, at this club, for as long as Sevilla want me. I work thinking that I am going to stay my whole life but I also know how football works."

JURGEN KLOPP
Liverpool manager
"The crucial time was when they equalised at the start of the second half. In this moment we lost faith in our style of play. We changed from passing simply to playing slow and complicated.

"Our formation was not so compact any more.

"There were four decisive decisions – and all against us. In a Final, when it's close, you need a bit of luck and we didn't have any. We are disappointed 100 per cent, but in a week we will see it more clearly and we will use this experience.

"On the way to the Final we had a few moments where we overperformed and the boys showed what they are capable of, but to show this consistently you need more time. They are young and it was a first big Final, and some day people will look back and say this was a decisive moment for the future of Liverpool FC.

"There are more things in life than football. I've had a lot of luck in my life. This time was not too lucky but I will try to reach the next Final even though I know I can lose it."

Year of the underdog

Leicester shock Premier League big shots

Leicester City's 2015-16 Premier League triumph will be remembered as the greatest underdog victory of English football's modern era. The 5,000-1 outsiders defied the odds to win the title race by some distance, leaving far wealthier, more accomplished and more experienced sides in their wake.

Leicester's achievement – with a core of players either rejected or overlooked by other clubs – was all the more remarkable given their form of the previous season and the departure of manager Nigel Pearson.

At the start of the campaign, Leicester had been many people's favourites to be relegated. Pearson had been sacked in late June and replaced by Claudio Ranieri, whose most recent employment had been with the Greek national side, where he had been dismissed after four months following a Euro qualifying defeat to Faroe Islands. But Ranieri is a hugely experienced campaigner, having come close to winning league titles in England (Chelsea), Italy (Internazionale, Roma, Fiorentina), France (Monaco) and Spain (Atletico Madrid, Valencia).

And his laid-back style and direct tactics proved the perfect fit for Leicester.

"English attack, Italian defence" was his mantra, and Leicester had some of the lowest possession stats in the league as the Italian encouraged no-nonsense defending and quick counter-attacks to striker Jamie Vardy.

Ranieri presided over a perfect storm of factors that combined to push Leicester to an unprecedented triumph. His tactics worked well with the club's clever signings and Leicester also benefitted from not being stretched in European competition, while their rivals struggled to repeat their form of the previous season.

Virtually the entire Leicester team were "rejects" from other clubs.

Algerian winger Riyad Mahrez had been turned down by many French Ligue 1 clubs for being too sleight before Leicester paid Le Havre £400,000 for him. Centre-back Robert Huth joined from Stoke City after a loan spell at Leicester. Keeper Kasper Schmeichel, the son of Peter, was on Manchester City's books as a teenager but lost out to Joe Hart; Danny Drinkwater did not play for Manchester United's first team and was loaned out to Championship clubs before Leicester came calling. Then there was right-back Danny Simpson, who was deemed surplus to requirement at Queens Park Rangers, left-back Christian Fuchs, who was out of contract at Schalke, and Marc Albrighton, who joined in 2014 after being released by Aston Villa.

Striker Jamie Vardy drifted in non-league football after failing to make the grade at Sheffield Wednesday and his story is now, reportedly, the subject of a Hollywood movie.

N'Golo Kante was not a reject as such, costing £5.6million from Caen, but Leicester chief scout Steve Walsh beat a number of clubs to his signature. Walsh joked that "we're able to play three in midfield: Drinkwater, with Kante either side" and the midfielder played his way into France's Euro 2016 side.

However, not all Leicester's signings proved successful, as record buy Andrej Kramaric went out on loan to Hoffenheim and Swiss midfielder Gokhan Inler barely featured all season.

Leicester were fortunate to experience few injuries and benefitted from excellent work by medical staff who helped those players who did get injured to recovery quickly. Their heavy pressing game required high levels of energy, which they managed to maintain through the whole campaign

For Leicester's owners, the Thai businessman behind the King Power group, the title triumph was totally unexpected. They had invested heavily to get the team out of the ▸

> "We're able to play three in midfield: Drinkwater, with Kante either side"
> **Leicester City's chief scout, Steve Walsh**

Stunning...Jamie Vardy scores for Leceister City at home to Liverpool

THE BREAKDOWN

TEAM OF THE SEASON

THE CUP FINAL

Jesse Lingard's extra time wonderstrike against Crystal Palace won a joint-record 12th FA Cup for 10-man Manchester United in Louis Van Gaal's last game in charge.

RELEGATED & PROMOTED

Aston Villa were bottom for most of the season, Rafa Benitez could not save Newcastle while Norwich lacked quality. Burnley and Middlesbrough gained automatic promotion, while Hull City beat Sheffield Wednesday in the play-off.

Cup hero...Jesse Lingard with the cup

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS

Leicester City, Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur go straight into the Champions League group stage, with Manchester City in the qualifying round. Manchester United, Southampton and West Ham United qualified for the Europa League.

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Just ahead of Leicester team-mates Riyad Mahrez and N'Golo Kante, Jamie Vardy was the story of the season and ended the campaign as a leading member of England's Euro 2016 squad.

COACH OF THE SEASON
Greeted with scepticism by many when appointed last summer, Claudio Ranieri guided Leicester to unprecedented new heights.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Dele Alli enjoyed a brilliant first season at Tottenham, following a move from MK Dons, and was propelled into England's Euro 2016 squad.

Local heroes...Leicester City parade the Premier League trophy through the streets of their home town

Championship and faced questions over sponsorship deals that allowed them to bypass financial fairplay regulations.

But there can be no denying the fairytale nature of Leicester's success, which is unlikely to ever be repeated.

Already there is talk of Arsenal being interested in signing Vardy, while Leicester's ability to keep Kante and Mahrez for next season will be an important test of their Champions League credentials.

Arsenal had looked strong going into Christmas, with Mesut Ozil particularly outstanding and they were the only team to inflict a heavy defeat on Leicester, winning 5-2 at the King Power stadium. But they were again hit by injuries and their challenge flagged in the spring.

Tottenham Hotspur's progress under Mauricio Pochettino was impressive, though they fell short of the title. The Argentinian made good use of young English players – Harry Kane, Dele Alli and the clever reinvention of Eric Dier as a holding midfielder – while the signing of Toby Alderweireld was especially inspired.

Chelsea's collapse was as unexpected as it was dramatic. Home losses to Crystal Palace and Bournemouth prompted the departure of Jose Mourinho only months after their title triumph, amid claims of major ructions in the dressing room.

The two Manchester clubs barely featured in the title race but eventually had enough in the tank to finish in the top four. However, Manuel Pellegrini and Louis Van Gaal both paid the price, although City and United won the League Cup and FA Cup respectively.

Much more will be expected of their big-name replacements next season when Pep Guardiola and Mourinho renew their La Liga rivalry.

Liverpool did not wait until the end of the season to get rid of Brendan Rodgers. Jurgen Klopp was hired in October and steered them to two cup Finals, the League Cup and the Europa League, but his "*gegenpressing*" tactics will need better players if they are to challenge for the top four next season.

Other impressive performers were West Ham United, for whom Dimitri Payet was outstanding, playing his way into France's Euro 2016 side, and Southampton, who continue to play the transfer market. They suffered no discernible effect from losing Morgan Schneiderlin to Manchester United but now have the challenge of replacing coach Ronald Koeman, lured to Everton by the promise of big money to spend from new owner, the former Arsenal shareholder Farhad Moshiri.

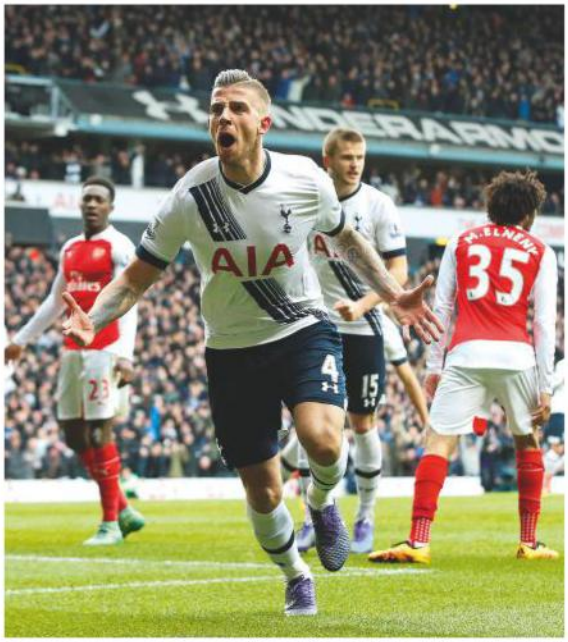
For many it was a case of be careful what you wish for as the turnover rate of managers continues to be high.

Swansea City fired Garry Monk and his replacement, Francesco Guidolin, endured a jittery start before eventually steering them to safety. Newcastle United sacked Steve McClaren but his replacement Rafa Benitez could not rectify the team's defensive weaknesses.

Watford dispensed with the services of Quique Sanchez Flores, despite the Spaniard guiding the newly promoted side to mid-table and an FA Cup semi-final.

Aston Villa's American owner Randy Lerner sacked Tim Sherwood and also his successor Remi Garde, but they remained rooted to the bottom of the table for almost the entire campaign.

The real excitement, however, was with Villa's Midlands rivals at the other end of the table. WS


Inspired...Toby Alderweireld

East End star...Dimitri Payet of West Ham

PREMIER LEAGUE: 2015-16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester City	38	23	12	3	68	36	81
Arsenal	38	20	11	7	65	36	71
Tottenham Hotspur	38	19	13	6	69	35	70
Manchester City	38	19	9	10	71	41	66
Manchester United	38	19	9	10	49	35	66
Southampton	38	18	9	11	59	41	63
West Ham United	38	16	14	8	65	51	62
Liverpool	38	16	12	10	63	50	60
Stoke City	38	14	9	15	41	55	51
Chelsea	38	12	14	12	59	53	50
Everton	38	11	14	13	59	55	47
Swansea City	38	12	11	15	42	52	47
Watford	38	12	9	17	40	50	45
West Bromwich Albion	38	10	13	15	34	48	43
Crystal Palace	38	11	9	18	39	51	42
Bournemouth	38	11	9	18	45	67	42
Sunderland	38	9	12	17	48	62	39
Newcastle United	38	9	10	19	44	65	37
Norwich City	38	9	7	22	39	67	34
Aston Villa	38	3	8	27	27	76	17

Gone...Louis Van Gaal

SIX KEY MATCHES

SEP 26, 2015
Spurs serve notice of their league ambitions with a stylish 4-1 defeat of Manchester City.

DEC 14, 2015
Goals from Jamie Vardy and a stunning strike from Riyad Mahrez see Leicester claim another big scalp as they return to the top of the table with a 2-1 victory over Chelsea. Three days later, Jose Mourinho was sacked by the defending champions.

Upset...Leicester see off Chelsea

JAN 13, 2016
A late Robert Huth header against top-four rivals Tottenham puts Leicester joint top of the table with Arsenal.

Going top...Leicester v Tottenham

FEB 6, 2016
Leicester stun their nearest rivals Manchester, City winning 3-1 at the Etihad stadium to move five points clear at the top.

FEB 28, 2016
Arsenal's title hopes are dashed as teenager Marcus Rashford, on his Premier League debut, scores twice and sets up the third goal as Manchester United win 3-2.

MAY 2
Tottenham need to beat Chelsea at Stamford Bridge to stay in the title race but a bad-tempered game ends 2-2 and hands the title to Leicester.

Losing it...Tottenham v Chelsea

Aug 8, 2015 **Bournemouth 0**
Aston Villa 1 (Gestede 72) Att: 11,155

Chelsea 2 (Oscar 23, Fernandez og 30)
Swansea 2 (Ayew 29, Gomis pen 55)
Att: 41,232

Everton 2 (Barkley 76, Kone 86)
Watford 2 (Layun 13, Ighalo 83)
Att: 39,063

Leicester 4 (Vardy 11, Mahrez 18, pen 25, Albrighton 66)
Sunderland 2 (Defoe 60, Fletcher 71)
Att: 32,242

Manchester United 1 (Walker og 22)
Tottenham 0 Att: 75,261

Norwich 1 (Redmond 69)
Crystal Palace 3 (Zaha 39, Delaney 49, Cabaye 90+4) Att: 27,036

Aug 9 **Arsenal 0**
West Ham 2 (Kouyate 43, Zarate 57)
Att: 59,996

Newcastle 2 (Cisse 42, Wijnaldum 48)
Southampton 2 (Pelle 24, Long 79)
Att: 49,019

Stoke 0
Liverpool 1 (Philippe Coutinho 86)
Att: 27,654

Aug 10 **West Bromwich 0**
Manchester City 3 (Silva 9, Toure 24, Kompany 59) Att: 24,564

Aug 14 **Aston Villa 0**
Manchester United 1 (Januzaj 29)
Att: 42,200

Aug 15 **Southampton 0**
Everton 3 (Lukaku 22, 45, Barkley 84)
Att: 30,966

Aug 15...Tottenham v Stoke

Sunderland 1 (Watmore 88)
Norwich 3 (Martin 26, Whittaker 37, Redmond 57) Att: 41,379

Swansea 2 (Gomis 9, Ayew 52)
Newcastle 0 Att: 20,678

Tottenham 2 (Dier 19, Chadli 45+2)
Stoke 2 (Arnautovic pen 78, Diouf 83)
Att: 36,004

Watford 0
West Bromwich 0 Att: 20,011

West Ham 1 (Payet 55)
Leicester 2 (Okazaki 27, Mahrez 38)
Att: 34,857

Aug 16 **Crystal Palace 1** (Ward 28)
Arsenal 2 (Giroud 16, Delaney og 55)
Att: 24,732

Manchester City 3 (Aguero 31, Kompany 79, Fernandinho 85)
Chelsea 0 Att: 54,331

Aug 17 **Liverpool 1** (Benteke 26)
Bournemouth 0 Att: 44,102

Aug 22 **Crystal Palace 2** (Dann 71, Sako 87)
Aston Villa 1 (Souare og 77)
Att: 25,295

Leicester 1 (Mahrez 82)
Tottenham 1 (Alli 81) Att: 31,971

Manchester United 0
Newcastle 0 Att: 75,354
Norwich 1 (Martin 28)
Stoke 1 (Diouf 11) Att: 26,771

Sunderland 1 (Defoe 62)
Swansea 1 (Gomis 45+3) Att: 39,198

West Ham 3 (Noble pen 48, Kouyate 53, Maiga 82)
Bournemouth 4 (Wilson 11, 28, pen 79, Pugh 66) Att: 34,977

Aug 23 **Everton 0**
Manchester City 2 (Kolarov 60, Nasri 88) Att: 38,523

Watford 0
Southampton 0 Att: 20,166

West Bromwich 2 (Morrison 35, 59)
Chelsea 3 (Pedro 20, Diego Costa 30, Azpilicueta 42) Att: 23,256

Aug 24 **Arsenal 0**
Liverpool 0 Att: 60,080

Aug 29 **Aston Villa 2** (Sinclair pen 11, 41)
Sunderland 2 (M'Vila 8, Lens 52)
Att: 35,399

Bournemouth 1 (Wilson 24)
Leicester 1 (Vardy pen 86) Att: 11,155

Chelsea 1 (Falcao 79)
Crystal Palace 2 (Sako 65, Ward 81)
Att: 41,581

Liverpool 0
West Ham 3 (Lanzini 3, Noble 29, Sakho 90+2) Att: 43,680

Manchester City 2 (Sterling 47, Fernandinho 56)
Watford 0 Att: 53,218

Newcastle 0
Arsenal 1 (Coloccini og 52) Att: 50,388

Stoke 0
West Bromwich 1 (Rondon 45+3)
Att: 26,747

Tottenham 0
Everton 0 Att: 35,865

Aug 30 **Southampton 3** (Pelle 45+1, Tadic 64, 67)
Norwich 0 Att: 29,573

Swansea 2 (Ayew 61, Gomis 66)
Manchester United 1 (Mata 48)
Att: 20,828

Sep 12 **Arsenal 2** (Walcott 31, Giroud 85)
Stoke 0 Att: 59,963

Crystal Palace 0
Manchester City 1 (Iheanacho 90)
Att: 25,167

Everton 3 (Naismith 17, 22, 82)
Chelsea 1 (Matic 36) Att: 38,311

Manchester United 3 (Blind 49, Ander Herrera pen 70, Martial 86)
Liverpool 1 (Benteke 84) Att: 75,347

Norwich 3 (Jerome 35, Hoolahan 52, Jarvis 67)
Bournemouth 1 (Cook 81) Att: 27,018

Watford 1 (Ighalo 59)
Swansea 0 Att: 20,057

West Bromwich 0
Southampton 0 Att: 24,265

Sep 13 **Leicester 3** (De Laet 72, Vardy 82, Dyer 89)
Aston Villa 2 (Grealish 39, Carles Gil 63) Att: 31,733

Sunderland 0
Tottenham 1 (Mason 82) Att: 40,303

Sep 14 **West Ham 2** (Payet 9, 48)
Newcastle 0 Att: 34,907

Sep 19 **Aston Villa 0**
West Bromwich 1 (Berahino 39)
Att: 36,321

Bournemouth 2 (Wilson 4, Ritchie 9)

Oct 25...Sunderland v Newcastle

Sunderland 0 Att: 11,271

Chelsea 2 (Zouma 53, Chambers og 90+1)
Arsenal 0 Att: 41,584

Manchester City 1 (De Bruyne 45+2)
West Ham 2 (Moses 6, Sakho 31)
Att: 53,545

Newcastle 1 (Janmaat 62)
Watford 2 (Ighalo 10, 28) Att: 47,806

Stoke 2 (Bojan 13, Walters 20)
Leicester 2 (Mahrez pen 51, Vardy 69)
Att: 27,642

Swansea 0
Everton 0 Att: 20,805

Sep 20 **Liverpool 1** (Ings 48)
Norwich 1 (Martin 61) Att: 44,072

Southampton 2 (Pelle 13, 86)
Manchester United 3 (Martial 34, 50, Mata 68) Att: 31,588

Tottenham 1 (Son 68)
Crystal Palace 0 Att: 35,723

Sep 26 **Leicester 2** (Vardy 13, 89)
Arsenal 5 (Walcott 18, Sanchez 33, 57, 81, Giroud 90+3) Att: 32,047

Liverpool 3 (Milner 2, Sturridge 59, 67)
Aston Villa 2 (Gestede 66, 71)
Att: 44,228

Manchester United 3 (Depay 45+4, Rooney 46, Mata 90)
Sunderland 0 Att: 75,328

Newcastle 2 (Perez 42, Wijnaldum 60)
Chelsea 2 (Ramires 79, Willian 86)
Att: 48,682

Southampton 3 (Van Dijk 11, Ki og 54, Mane 61)
Swansea 1 (Sigurdsson pen 83)
Att: 30,704

Stoke 2 (Walters 32, Diouf 83)
Bournemouth 1 (Gosling 76)
Att: 27,742

Tottenham 4 (Dier 45, Alderweireld 50, Kane 61, Lamela 79)
Manchester City 1 (De Bruyne 25)
Att: 35,867

West Ham 2 (Sakho 33, Kouyate 90+3)
Norwich 2 (Brady 9, Redmond 83)
Att: 34,857

Sep 27 **Watford 0**
Crystal Palace 1 (Cabaye pen 71)
Att: 20,168

Sep 28 **West Bromwich 2** (Berahino 41, Dawson 54)
Everton 3 (Lukaku 55, 84, Kone 75)
Att: 24,240

Oct 3 **Aston Villa 0**
Stoke 1 (Arnautovic 55) Att: 33,189

Bournemouth 1 (Murray 28)
Watford 1 (Ighalo 45) Att: 11,187

Chelsea 1 (Willian 10)
Southampton 3 (S Davis 43, Mane 60, Pelle 72) Att: 41,642

Crystal Palace 2 (Bolasie 68, Cabaye pen 89)
West Bromwich 0 Att: 24,033

Manchester City 6 (Aguero 42, 49, 50, 60, 62, De Bruyne 53)
Newcastle 1 (Mitrovic 18) Att: 53,850

Norwich 1 (Mbokani 68)
Leicester 2 (Vardy pen 28, Schlupp 47)
Att: 27,067

Sunderland 2 (Fletcher 10, Lens 22)
West Ham 2 (Jenkinson 45+1, Payet 60) Att: 42,932

Oct 4 **Arsenal 3** (Sanchez 6, 19, Ozil 7)
Manchester United 0 Att: 60,084

Everton 1 (Lukaku 45+1)
Liverpool 1 (Ings 41) Att: 39,598

Swansea 2 (Ayew 16, Kane og 31)
Tottenham 2 (Eriksen 27, 65)
Att: 20,845

Oct 17 **Chelsea 2** (Diego Costa 34, Hutton og 54)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 41,596

Crystal Palace 1 (Cabaye pen 25)
West Ham 3 (Jenkinson 22, Lanzini 88, Payet 90+4) Att: 24,812

Everton 0
Manchester United 3 (Schneiderlin 18, Ander Herrera 22, Rooney 62)
Att: 39,553

Manchester City 5 (Sterling 7, 29, 45+3, Bony 11, 89)
Bournemouth 1 (Murray 22)
Att: 54,502

Southampton 2 (Jose Fonte 21, Van Dijk 37)
Leicester 2 (Vardy 66, 90+1)
Att: 30,966

Tottenham 0
Liverpool 0 Att: 35,926

Watford 0
Arsenal 3 (Sanchez 62, Giroud 68, Ramsey 74) Att: 20,721

West Bromwich 1 (Berahino 54)
Sunderland 0 Att: 24,225

Oct 18 **Newcastle 6** (Wijnaldum 14, 26, 66, 85, Perez 33, Mitrovic 64)
Norwich 2 (Mbokani 20, Redmond 34)
Att: 47,006

Oct 19 **Swansea 0**
Stoke 1 (Bojan pen 4) Att: 20,044

Oct 24 **Arsenal 2** (Giroud 36, Koscielny 38)
Everton 1 (Barkley 44) Att: 59,985

Aston Villa 1 (J Ayew 62)
Swansea 2 (Sigurdsson 68, A Ayew 87)
Att: 33,324

Leicester 1 (Vardy 59)
Crystal Palace 0 Att: 31,752

Norwich 0
West Bromwich 1 (Rondon 46)
Att: 26,983

Stoke 0
Watford 2 (Deeney 43, Abdi 69)
Att: 27,587

West Ham 2 (Zarate 17, Carroll 79)
Chelsea 1 (Cahill 56) Att: 34,977

Oct 25 **Bournemouth 1** (Ritchie 1)
Tottenham 5 (Kane pen 9, 56, 63, Dembele 17, Lamela 29) Att: 11,332

Liverpool 1 (Benteke 77)
Southampton 1 (Mane 86) Att: 44,171

Manchester United 0
Manchester City 0 Att: 75,329

Sunderland 3 (Johnson pen 45+3, Jones 65, Fletcher 86)
Newcastle 0 Att: 47,653

Oct 31 **Chelsea 1** (Ramires 4)
Liverpool 3 (Philippe Coutinho 45+3, 74, Benteke 83) Att: 41,577

Crystal Palace 0
Manchester United 0 Att: 24,854

Manchester City 2 (Otamendi 67, Toure pen 89)
Norwich 1 (Jerome 83) Att: 53,418

Newcastle 0
Stoke 0 Att: 47,139

Swansea 0
Arsenal 3 (Giroud 49, Koscielny 68, Campbell 73) Att: 20,937

Watford 2 (Ighalo 39, 48)
West Ham 0 Att: 20,598

West Bromwich 2 (Rondon 30, Lambert pen 84)
Leicester 3 (Mahrez 57, 64, Vardy 77)
Att: 24,150

Nov 1 **Everton 6** (Deulofeu 19, Kone 31, 62, 76, Coates og 55, Lukaku 60)
Sunderland 2 (Defoe 45+4, Fletcher 50) Att: 36,617

Southampton 2 (S Davis 31, Pelle 36)
Bournemouth 0 Att: 31,229

Nov 2 **Tottenham 3** (Dembele 3, Alli 45+1, Kane 90+3)
Aston Villa 1 (Ayew 79) Att: 34,882

Nov 7 **Bournemouth 0**
Newcastle 1 (Perez 27) Att: 11,155

Leicester 2 (Kante 52, Vardy pen 65)
Watford 1 (Deeney pen 75) Att: 32,029

Manchester United 2 (Lingard 52, Mata pen 90+1)
West Bromwich 0 Att: 75,410

Norwich 1 (Howson 70)
Swansea 0 Att: 27,029

Stoke 1 (Arnautovic 53)
Chelsea 0 Att: 27,550

Sunderland 0
Southampton 1 (Tadic pen 69)
Att: 41,781

West Ham 1 (Lanzini 30)
Everton 1 (Lukaku 43) Att: 34,977

Nov 8 **Arsenal 1** (Gibbs 77)
Tottenham 1 (Kane 32) Att: 60,060

Aston Villa 0
Manchester City 0 Att: 36,757

Liverpool 1 (Philippe Coutinho 42)
Crystal Palace 2 (Bolasie 21, Dann 82)
Att: 44,115

Nov 21 **Chelsea 1** (Diego Costa 64)
Norwich 0 Att: 41,582

Everton 4 (Barkley 17, 42, Lukaku 28, 59)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 38,424

Manchester City 1 (Aguero 44)
Liverpool 4 (Mangala og 7, Philippe Coutinho 23, Roberto Firmino 32, Skrtel 81) Att: 54,444

Newcastle 0
Leicester 3 (Vardy 45+1, Ulloa 62, Okazaki 83) Att: 50,151

Southampton 0
Stoke 1 (Bojan 10) Att: 30,039

Swansea 2 (Ayew 28, Shelvey pen 39)
Bournemouth 2 (King 10, Gosling 26)
Att: 20,878

Watford 1 (Deeney pen 87)
Manchester United 2 (Depay 11, Deeney og 90) Att: 20,702

West Bromwich 2 (Morrison 35, Arteta og 40)
Arsenal 1 (Giroud 28) Att: 24,343

Nov 22 **Tottenham 4** (Kane 23, 50, Alderweireld 33, Walker 83)
West Ham 1 (Lanzini 87) Att: 35,968

Nov 23 **Crystal Palace 0**
Sunderland 1 (Defoe 80) Att: 24,361

Nov 28 **Aston Villa 2** (Richards 41, Ayew 89)
Watford 3 (Ighalo 17, Hutton og 69, Deeney 85) Att: 35,057

Bournemouth 3 (Smith 80, Stanislas 87, 90+8)
Everton 3 (Funes Mori 25, Lukaku 36, Barkley 90+5) Att: 11,228

Crystal Palace 5 (McArthur 14, 90+3, Bolasie 17, 47, Zaha 41)
Newcastle 1 (Cisse 10) Att: 24,833

Leicester 1 (Vardy 24)
Manchester United 1 (Schweinsteiger 45+1) Att: 32,115

Manchester City 3 (De Bruyne 9, Delph 20, Kolarov 69)
Southampton 1 (Long 49) Att: 54,102

Sunderland 2 (Van Aanholt 82, Watmore 84)
Stoke 0 Att: 41,516

Nov 29 **Liverpool 1** (Milner pen 62)
Swansea 0 Att: 43,905

Norwich 1 (Grabban 43)
Arsenal 1 (Ozil 30) Att: 27,091

Tottenham 0
Chelsea 0 Att: 35,639

West Ham 1 (Zarate 17)
West Bromwich 1 (Reid og 50)
Att: 34,914

Dec 5 **Arsenal 3** (Campbell 33, Giroud 63, Ramsey 90+3)
Sunderland 1 (Giroud og 45)
Att: 59,937

Chelsea 0
Bournemouth 1 (Murray 82) Att: 41,631

Manchester United 0
West Ham 0 Att: 75,350

Southampton 1 (Romeu 73)
Aston Villa 1 (Lescott 44) Att: 29,645

Stoke 2 (Arnautovic 7, 15)
Manchester City 0 Att: 27,264

Swansea 0
Leicester 3 (Mahrez 5, 22, 67)
Att: 20,836

Watford 2 (Deeney pen 30, Ighalo 90+1)
Norwich 0 Att: 20,422

West Bromwich 1 (McClean 39)
Tottenham 1 (Alli 15) Att: 23,602

Dec 6 **Newcastle 2** (Skrtel og 69, Wijnaldum 90+3)
Liverpool 0 Att: 51,273

Dec 7 **Everton 1** (Lukaku 81)
Crystal Palace 1 (Dann 76) Att: 35,736

Dec 12 **Bournemouth 2** (Stanislas 2, King 54)
Manchester United 1 (Fellaini 24)
Att: 11,334

Crystal Palace 1 (Cabaye 38)
Southampton 0 Att: 24,914

Manchester City 2 (Bony 26, Iheanacho 90+2)
Swansea 1 (Gomis 90) Att: 53,052

Norwich 1 (Hoolahan 47)
Everton 1 (Lukaku 15) Att: 27,027

Sunderland 0
Watford 1 (Ighalo 4) Att: 43,989

West Ham 0
Stoke 0 Att: 34,857

Dec 13 **Aston Villa 0**
Arsenal 2 (Giroud pen 8, Ramsey 38)
Att: 33,285

Liverpool 2 (Henderson 21, Origi 90+6)
West Bromwich 2 (Dawson 30, Olsson 73) Att: 44,147

Tottenham 1 (Dier 39)
Newcastle 2 (Mitrovic 74, Perez 90+3)
Att: 35,768

Dec 14 **Leicester 2** (Vardy 34, Mahrez 48)
Chelsea 1 (Remy 77) Att: 32,054

Dec 19 **Chelsea 3** (Ivanovic 5, Pedro 13, Oscar pen 50)
Sunderland 1 (Borini 52) Att: 41,562

Everton 2 (Lukaku 32, Mirallas 89)
Leicester 3 (Mahrez pen 27, pen 65, Okazaki 69) Att: 39,570

Manchester United 1 (Martial 66)
Norwich 2 (Jerome 38, Tettey 54)
Att: 75,320

Newcastle 1 (Coloccini 38)
Aston Villa 1 (Ayew 61) Att: 48,234

Southampton 0
Tottenham 2 (Kane 40, Alli 43) Att: 31,636

Stoke 1 (Bojan pen 76)
Crystal Palace 2 (Wickham pen 45+1, Lee 88) Att: 27,500

Southampton 4 (Martina 19, Long 55, 90+2, Jose Fonte 69)
Arsenal 0 Att: 31,669

Stoke 2 (Bojan 19, Arnautovic 26)
Manchester United 0 Att: 27,426

Swansea 1 (Ki 9)
West Bromwich 0 Att: 20,789

Tottenham 3 (Kane pen 26, 42, Carroll 80)
Norwich 0 Att: 35,198

Dec 28 **Arsenal 2** (Gabriel 27, Ozil 63)
Bournemouth 0 Att: 59,983

Crystal Palace 0
Swansea 0 Att: 23,714

Everton 3 (Lukaku 22, 64, Deulofeu 71)
Stoke 4 (Shaqiri 16, 45, Joselu 80, Arnautovic pen 90+1) Att: 39,340

Manchester United 0
Chelsea 0 Att: 75,275

Norwich 2 (Howson 24, Mbokani 87)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 27,071

Watford 1 (Ighalo 41)
Tottenham 2 (Lamela 17, Son 89)
Att: 20,730

West Bromwich 1 (Fletcher 78)
Newcastle 0 Att: 26,313

West Ham 2 (Antonio 69, Carroll 79)
Southampton 1 (Jenkinson og 13)
Att: 34,977

Dec 29 **Leicester 0**
Manchester City 0 Att: 32,072

Dec 30 **Sunderland 0**
Liverpool 1 (Benteke 46)
Att: 45,765

Dec 21...Arsenal v Manchester City

West Bromwich 1 (McAuley 79)
Bournemouth 2 (Smith 52, Daniels pen 87) Att: 26,127

Dec 20 **Swansea 0**
West Ham 0 Att: 20,661

Watford 3 (Ake 3, Ighalo 15, 85)
Liverpool 0 Att: 20,707

Dec 21 **Arsenal 2** (Walcott 33, Giroud 45+1)
Manchester City 1 (Toure 82)
Att: 60,053

Dec 26 **Aston Villa 1** (Ayew pen 62)
West Ham 1 (Cresswell 45+2)
Att: 38,193

Bournemouth 0
Crystal Palace 0 Att: 11,218

Chelsea 2 (Diego Costa 32, 65)
Watford 2 (Deeney pen 42, Ighalo 56)
Att: 41,630

Liverpool 1 (Benteke 63)
Leicester 0 Att: 44,123

Manchester City 4 (Sterling 12, Toure 17, Bony 22, De Bruyne 54)
Sunderland 1 (Borini 59) Att: 54,523

Newcastle 0
Everton 1 (Cleverley 90+3) Att: 51,682

Jan 2, 2016 **Arsenal 1** (Koscielny 72)
Newcastle 0 Att: 59,257

Leicester 0
Bournemouth 0 Att: 32,006

Manchester United 2 (Martial 47, Rooney 77)
Swansea 1 (Sigurdsson 70) Att: 75,415

Norwich 1 (Tettey 76)
Southampton 0 Att: 27,022

Sunderland 3 (Richards og 30, Defoe 72, 90+2)
Aston Villa 1 (Carles Gil 63) Att: 41,535

Watford 1 (Kolarov og 55)
Manchester City 2 (Toure 82, Aguero 84) Att: 20,676

West Bromwich 2 (Sessegnon 60, Evans 90+2)
Stoke 1 (Walters 81) Att: 23,218

West Ham 2 (Antonio 10, Carroll 55)
Liverpool 0 Att: 34,977

Jan 3 **Crystal Palace 0**
Chelsea 3 (Oscar 29, Willian 60, Diego Costa 66) Att: 24,854

Everton 1 (Lennon 22)
Tottenham 1 (Alli 45+1)
Att: 38,482

Jan 12 **Aston Villa 1** (Hennessey og 58)
Crystal Palace 0 Att: 28,245

Bournemouth 1 (Arter 17)
West Ham 3 (Payet 67, Valencia 74, 84)
Att: 11,071

Newcastle 3 (Wijnaldum 42, Mitrovic pen 67, Dummett 90)
Manchester United 3 (Rooney pen 9, 79, Lingard 38) Att: 49,673

Jan 13 **Chelsea 2** (Azpilicueta 20, McAuley og 73)
West Bromwich 2 (Gardner 33, McClean 86) Att: 40,945

Liverpool 3 (Roberto Firmino 10, 19, Allen 90)
Arsenal 3 (Ramsey 14, Giroud 25, 55)
Att: 44,109

Manchester City 0
Everton 0 Att: 53,796

Southampton 2 (Long 17, Tadic 73)
Watford 0 Att: 28,399

Stoke 3 (Walters 49, Joselu 67, Bennett og 78)
Norwich 1 (Howson 55) Att: 27,274

Swansea 2 (Sigurdsson pen 21, Ayew 40)
Sunderland 4 (Defoe 3, 61, 85, Van Aanholt 49) Att: 20,140

Tottenham 0
Leicester 1 (Huth 83) Att: 35,850

Jan 16 **Aston Villa 1** (Gestede 75)
Leicester 1 (Okazaki 28) Att: 32,763

Bournemouth 3 (Gosling 10, Daniels pen 54, Afobe 75)
Norwich 0 Att: 11,065

Chelsea 3 (Diego Costa 64, Fabregas 66, Terry 90+8)
Everton 3 (Terry og 50, Mirallas 56, Funes Mori 90) Att: 41,633

Manchester City 4 (Delph 22, Aguero 41, 68, Silva 84)
Crystal Palace 0 Att: 53,983

Newcastle 2 (Perez 6, Wijnaldum 15)
West Ham 1 (Jelavic 49) Att: 50,031

Southampton 3 (Ward-Prowse 5, pen 35, Tadic 72)
West Bromwich 0 Att: 29,622

Tottenham 4 (Eriksen 42, 67, Dembele 59, Kane pen 79)
Sunderland 1 (Van Aanholt 40)
Att: 35,854

Jan 17 **Liverpool 0**
Manchester United 1 (Rooney 78)
Att: 43,865

Stoke 0
Arsenal 0 Att: 27,683

Jan 18 **Swansea 1** (Williams 27)
Watford 0 Att: 20,430

Jan 23 **Crystal Palace 1** (Vertonghen og 30)
Tottenham 3 (Kane 63, Alli 84, Chadli 90+5) Att: 24,867

Leicester 3 (Drinkwater 42, Vardy 66, Ulloa 87)
Stoke 0 Att: 32,018

Manchester United 0
Southampton 1 (Austin 87) Att: 75,408

Norwich 4 (Mbokani 29, Naismith 41, Hoolahan pen 54, Bassong 90+2)
Liverpool 5 (Roberto Firmino 18, 63, Henderson 55, Milner 75, Lallana 90+5) Att: 27,108

Sunderland 1 (Van Aanholt 45+1)
Bournemouth 1 (Afobe 13) Att: 41,367

Watford 2 (Ighalo 46, Cathcart 58)
Newcastle 1 (Lascelles 71) Att: 20,611

West Bromwich 0
Aston Villa 0 Att: 26,165

West Ham 2 (Valencia 1, 56)
Manchester City 2 (Aguero pen 9, 81)
Att: 34,977

Jan 24 **Arsenal 0**
Chelsea 1 (Diego Costa 23) Att: 60,072
Everton 1 (Cork og 26)
Swansea 2 (Sigurdsson pen 17, Ayew 34) Att: 36,908

Feb 2 **Arsenal 0**
Southampton 0 Att: 60,044

Crystal Palace 1 (Dann 27)
Bournemouth 2 (Pugh 34, Afobe 57)
Att: 24,855

Leicester 2 (Vardy 60, 71)
Liverpool 0 Att: 32,121

Manchester United 3 (Lingard 14, Martial 23, Rooney 53)
Stoke 0 Att: 75,234

Norwich 0
Tottenham 3 (Alli 2, Kane pen 30, 90)
Att: 27,067

Sunderland 0
Manchester City 1 (Aguero 16)
Att: 38,852

West Bromwich 1 (Rondon 90+2)
Swansea 1 (Sigurdsson 64) Att: 22,062

West Ham 2 (Antonio 58, Kouyate 85)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 34,914

Feb 3 **Everton 3** (Lennon 23, Barkley pen 88, pen 90+4)
Newcastle 0 Att: 36,061

Watford 0
Chelsea 0 Att: 20,910

Feb 6 **Aston Villa 2** (Klose og 45, Agbonlahor 51)
Norwich 0 Att: 32,472

Liverpool 2 (Roberto Firmino 59, Lallana 70)
Sunderland 2 (Johnson 82, Defoe 89)
Att: 44,179

Manchester City 1 (Aguero 87)
Leicester 3 (Huth 3, 60, Mahrez 48)
Att: 54,693

Newcastle 1 (Mitrovic 32)
West Bromwich 0 Att: 50,152

Southampton 1 (Yoshida 9)
West Ham 0 Att: 29,161

Stoke 0
Everton 3 (Lukaku pen 11, Coleman 28, Lennon 42) Att: 27,733

Swansea 1 (Sigurdsson 13)
Crystal Palace 1 (Dann 47) Att: 20,492

Tottenham 1 (Trippier 64)
Watford 0 Att: 35,997

Feb 7 **Bournemouth 0**
Arsenal 2 (Ozil 23, Oxlade-Chamberlain 24) Att: 11,357

Chelsea 1 (Diego Costa 90+1)
Manchester United 1 (Lingard 61)
Att: 41,434

Feb 13 **Bournemouth 1** (Ritchie 57)
Stoke 3 (Imbula 9, Afellay 52, Joselu 55) Att: 10,863

Chelsea 5 (Diego Costa 5, Pedro 9, 59, Willian 17, Traore 83)
Newcastle 1 (Townsend 90) Att: 41,622

Crystal Palace 1 (Adebayor 45)
Watford 2 (Deeney pen 16, 82)
Att: 24,564

Everton 0
West Bromwich 1 (Rondon 14)
Att: 38,103

Norwich 2 (Brady 54, Hoolahan 65)
West Ham 2 (Payet 74, Noble 76)
Att: 27,101

Sunderland 2 (Khazri 3, De Gea og 82)
Manchester United 1 (Martial 39)
Att: 41,687

Swansea 0
Southampton 1 (Long 69) Att: 20,890

Feb 14 **Arsenal 2** (Walcott 70, Welbeck 90+5)

Leicester 1 (Vardy pen 45) Att: 60,009

Aston Villa 0
Liverpool 6 (Sturridge 16, Milner 25, Can 58, Origi 63, Clyne 65, Toure 71) Att: 35,798

Manchester City 1 (Iheanacho 74)
Tottenham 2 (Kane pen 53, Eriksen 83) Att: 54,551

Feb 27 **Leicester 1** (Ulloa 89)
Norwich 0 Att: 32,114

Southampton 1 (Long 42)
Chelsea 2 (Fabregas 75, Ivanovic 89) Att: 31,688

Stoke 2 (Arnautovic pen 51, 56)
Aston Villa 1 (Bacuna 79) Att: 27,703

Watford 0
Bournemouth 0 Att: 20,831

West Bromwich 3 (Gardner 12, Dawson 20, Berahino 31)
Crystal Palace 2 (Wickham 48, 80) Att: 24,806

West Ham 1 (Antonio 30)
Sunderland 0 Att: 34,946

Feb 28 **Manchester United 3** (Rashford 29, 32, Ander Herrera 65)
Arsenal 2 (Welbeck 40, Ozil 69) Att: 75,329

Tottenham 2 (Chadli 70, Rose 77)
Swansea 1 (Paloschi 19) Att: 35,922

Mar 1 **Aston Villa 1** (Gestede 79)
Everton 3 (Funes Mori 5, Lennon 30, Lukaku 60) Att: 29,755

Bournemouth 2 (Cook 31, Afobe 79)
Southampton 0 Att: 11,033

Leicester 2 (Olsson og 30, King 45+1)
West Bromwich 2 (Rondon 11, Gardner 50) Att: 32,018

Norwich 1 (Redmond 68)
Chelsea 2 (Kenedy 1, Diego Costa 45+1) Att: 27,091

Sunderland 2 (N'Doye 36, Borini 90)
Crystal Palace 2 (Wickham 61, 67) Att: 39,795

Mar 2 **Arsenal 1** (Campbell 15)
Swansea 2 (Routledge 32, Williams 74) Att: 59,905

Liverpool 3 (Lallana 34, Milner 41, Roberto Firmino 57)
Manchester City 0 Att: 43,597

Manchester United 1 (Mata 83)
Watford 0 Att: 75,272

Stoke 1 (Shaqiri 80)
Newcastle 0 Att: 27,331

West Ham 1 (Antonio 7)
Tottenham 0 Att: 34,977

Mar 5 **Chelsea 1** (Traore 39)
Stoke 1 (Diouf 85) Att: 41,381

Everton 2 (Lukaku 13, Lennon 56)
West Ham 3 (Antonio 78, Sakho 81, Payet 90) Att: 39,000

Manchester City 4 (Toure 48, Aguero 50, 60, Sterling 66)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 53,892

Newcastle 1 (Perez 80)
Bournemouth 3 (Taylor og 28, King 70, Daniels 90+2) Att: 52,107

Southampton 1 (Van Dijk 90+3)
Sunderland 1 (Defoe 85) Att: 31,458

Swansea 1 (Sigurdsson 61)
Norwich 0 Att: 20,929

Tottenham 2 (Alderweireld 60, Kane 62)
Arsenal 2 (Ramsey 39, Sanchez 76) Att: 35,762

Watford 0
Leicester 1 (Mahrez 56) Att: 20,884

Mar 6 **Crystal Palace 1** (Ledley 48)
Liverpool 2 (Roberto Firmino 72, Benteke pen 90+6) Att: 24,709

West Bromwich 1 (Rondon 66)
Manchester United 0 Att: 24,878

Mar 12 **Bournemouth 3** (Gradel 37, King 50, Cook 78)
Swansea 2 (Barrow 39, Sigurdsson 62) Att: 11,179

Norwich 0
Manchester City 0 Att: 26,323

Stoke 1 (Arnautovic 52)
Southampton 2 (Pelle 11, 30) Att: 27,833

Mar 13 **Aston Villa 0**
Tottenham 2 (Kane 45, 48) Att: 32,393

Mar 14 **Leicester 1** (Okazaki 25)
Newcastle 0 Att: 31,824

Mar 19 **Chelsea 2** (Fabregas 45+3, pen 89)
West Ham 2 (Lanzini 17, Carroll 61) Att: 41,623

Crystal Palace 0
Leicester 1 (Mahrez 34) Att: 25,041

Everton 0
Arsenal 2 (Welbeck 7, Iwobi 42) Att: 39,270

Swansea 1 (Fernandez 53)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 20,454

Watford 1 (Deeney 86)
Stoke 2 (Walters 18, Joselu 51) Att: 20,759

West Bromwich 0
Norwich 1 (Brady 50) Att: 25,039

Mar 20 **Manchester City 0**
Manchester United 1 (Rashford 16) Att: 54,557

Newcastle 1 (Mitrovic 83)
Sunderland 1 (Defoe 44) Att: 52,311

Southampton 3 (Mane 64, 86, Pelle 83)
Liverpool 2 (Philippe Coutinho 17, Sturridge 22) Att: 31,596

Tottenham 3 (Kane 1, 16, Eriksen 52)
Bournemouth 0 Att: 36,084

Apr 2 **Arsenal 4** (Sanchez 4, Iwobi 38, Bellerin 48, Walcott 90)
Watford 0 Att: 59,981

Aston Villa 0
Chelsea 4 (Loftus-Cheek 26, Alexandre Pato pen 45+3, Pedro 46, 59) Att: 31,120

Bournemouth 0
Manchester City 4 (Fernando 7, De Bruyne 12, Aguero 19, Kolarov 90+3) Att: 11,192

Liverpool 1 (Philippe Coutinho 51)
Tottenham 1 (Kane 63) Att: 44,062

Norwich 3 (Klose 45+2, Mbokani 74, Olsson 90+3)
Newcastle 2 (Mitrovic 71, pen 86) Att: 27,137

Stoke 2 (Afellay 13, Bojan 53)
Swansea 2 (Sigurdsson 68, Paloschi 79) Att: 27,649

Sunderland 0
West Bromwich 0 Att: 45,144

Apr 20...Liverpool v Everton

West Ham 2 (Lanzini 18, Payet 41)
Crystal Palace 2 (Delaney 15, Gayle 75) Att: 34,857

Apr 3 **Leicester 1** (Morgan 38)
Southampton 0 Att: 32,071

Manchester United 1 (Martial 54)
Everton 0 Att: 75,341

Apr 9 **Aston Villa 1** (Ayew 85)
Bournemouth 2 (Cook 45+2, King 74) Att: 31,057

Crystal Palace 1 (Puncheon 68)
Norwich 0 Att: 24,960

Manchester City 2 (Aguero pen 19, Nasri 66)
West Bromwich 1 (Sessegnon 6) Att: 53,920

Southampton 3 (Long 4, Pelle 38, Wanyama 55)
Newcastle 1 (Townsend 65) Att: 31,542

Swansea 1 (Sigurdsson 25)
Chelsea 0 Att: 20,966

Watford 1 (Coleman og 45+2)
Everton 1 (McCarthy 45+1) Att: 20,663

West Ham 3 (Carroll 44, 45+2, 52)
Arsenal 3 (Ozil 18, Sanchez 35, Koscielny 70) Att: 34,977

Apr 10 **Liverpool 4** (Moreno 8, Sturridge 32, Origi 50, 65)
Stoke 1 (Bojan 22) Att: 43,688

Sunderland 0
Leicester 2 (Vardy 66, 90+5) Att: 46,531

Tottenham 3 (Alli 70, Alderweireld 74, Lamela 76)
Manchester United 0 Att: 35,761

Apr 13 **Crystal Palace 0**
Everton 0 Att: 23,528

Apr 16 **Chelsea 0**
Manchester City 3 (Aguero 33, 54, pen 80) Att: 41,212

Everton 1 (Funes Mori 68)
Southampton 1 (Mane 76) Att: 36,761

Manchester United 1 (Rashford 32)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 75,411

Newcastle 3 (Lascelles 40, Sissoko 82, Townsend 89)
Swansea 0 Att: 48,949

Norwich 0
Sunderland 3 (Borini pen 41, Defoe 53, Watmore 90+1) Att: 27,117

West Bromwich 0
Watford 1 (Watson 27) Att: 25,515

Apr 17 **Arsenal 1** (Sanchez 45+1)
Crystal Palace 1 (Bolasie 81) Att: 59,961

Bournemouth 1 (King 90+3)
Liverpool 2 (Roberto Firmino 41, Sturridge 45+2) Att: 11,386

Leicester 2 (Vardy 18, Ulloa pen 90+5)
West Ham 2 (Carroll pen 84, Cresswell 86) Att: 32,104

Apr 18 **Stoke 0**
Tottenham 4 (Kane 9, 71, Alli 67, 82) Att: 27,442

Apr 19 **Newcastle 1** (Anita 31)
Manchester City 1 (Aguero 14) Att: 46,424

Apr 20 **Liverpool 4** (Origi 43, Sakho 45+2, Sturridge 61, Philippe Coutinho 76)
Everton 0 Att: 43,854

Manchester United 2 (Delaney og 4, Darmian 55)
Crystal Palace 0 Att: 75,277

West Ham 3 (Carroll 11, Noble pen 45, pen 53)
Watford 1 (Prodl 64) Att: 34,857

Apr 21 **Arsenal 2** (Sanchez 6, 38)

May 10...West Ham United v Manchester United

West Bromwich 0 Att: 59,568

Apr 23 **Aston Villa 2** (Westwood 45+1, 85)
Southampton 4 (Long 15, Tadic 39, 71, Mane 90+4) Att: 29,729

Bournemouth 1 (Elphick 36)
Chelsea 4 (Pedro 5, Hazard 34, 90+1, Willian 71) Att: 11,365

Liverpool 2 (Sturridge 2, Lallana 30)
Newcastle 2 (Cisse 48, Colback 66) Att: 43,837

Manchester City 4 (Fernando 35, Aguero pen 43, Iheanacho 64, 74)
Stoke 0 Att: 53,974

Apr 24 **Leicester 4** (Mahrez 10, Ulloa 30, 60, Albrighton 85)
Swansea 0 Att: 31,962

Sunderland 0
Arsenal 0 Att: 45,420

Apr 25 **Tottenham 1** (Dawson og 33)
West Bromwich 1 (Dawson 73) Att: 35,923

Apr 30 **Arsenal 1** (Welbeck 59)
Norwich 0 Att: 59,989

Everton 2 (Cleverley 7, Baines 64)
Bournemouth 1 (Pugh 9) Att: 38,345

Newcastle 1 (Townsend 58)
Crystal Palace 0 Att: 52,107

Stoke 1 (Arnautovic 50)
Sunderland 1 (Defoe pen 90+4) Att: 27,667

Watford 3 (Abdi 45+2, Deeney 90, 90+3)
Aston Villa 2 (Clark 28, Ayew 48) Att: 20,653

West Bromwich 0
West Ham 3 (Kouyate 34, Noble 45+2, 79) Att: 25,031

May 1 **Manchester United 1** (Martial 8)
Leicester 1 (Morgan 17) Att: 75,275

Southampton 4 (Long 25, Mane 28, 57, 68)
Manchester City 2 (Iheanacho 44, 78) Att: 31,472

Swansea 3 (Ayew 20, 67, Cork 33)
Liverpool 1 (Benteke 65) Att: 20,972

May 2 **Chelsea 2** (Cahill 58, Hazard 83)
Tottenham 2 (Kane 35, Son 44) Att: 41,545

May 7 **Aston Villa 0**
Newcastle 0 Att: 33,055

Bournemouth 1 (Ritchie 82)
West Bromwich 1 (Rondon 16) Att: 11,040

Crystal Palace 2 (Gayle 47, 68)
Stoke 1 (Adam 26) Att: 23,990

Leicester 3 (Vardy 5, pen 65, King 33)
Everton 1 (Mirallas 88) Att: 32,140

Norwich 0
Manchester United 1 (Mata 72) Att: 27,132

Sunderland 3 (Khazri 41, Borini 67, Defoe 70)
Chelsea 2 (Diego Costa 14, Matic 45+3) Att: 47,050

West Ham 1 (Kingsley og 68)
Swansea 4 (Routledge 25, Ayew 31, Ki 51, Gomis 90+3) Att: 34,907

May 8 **Liverpool 2** (Allen 35, Roberto Firmino 76)
Watford 0 Att: 43,341

Manchester City 2 (Aguero 8, De Bruyne 51)
Arsenal 2 (Giroud 10, Sanchez 68) Att: 54,425

Tottenham 1 (Son 16)
Southampton 2 (S Davis 31, 72) Att: 35,748

May 10 **West Ham 3** (Sakho 10, Antonio 76, Reid 80)
Manchester United 2 (Martial 51, 72) Att: 34,602

May 11 **Liverpool 1** (Benteke 90+2)
Chelsea 1 (Hazard 32) Att: 43,210

Norwich 4 (Redmond 15, Mbokani 18, 57, Cathcart og 37)
Watford 2 (Deeney 11, Ighalo 51) Att: 26,279

Sunderland 3 (Van Aanholt 38, Kone 42, 55)
Everton 0 Att: 46,454

May 15 **Arsenal 4** (Giroud 5, 78, 80, Bunn og 90+2)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 60,007

Chelsea 1 (Fabregas pen 66)
Leicester 1 (Drinkwater 82) Att: 41,494

Everton 3 (McCarthy 19, Baines pen 44, Mirallas 48)
Norwich 0 Att: 36,691

Newcastle 5 (Wijnaldum 19, pen 73, Mitrovic 39, Aarons 85, Janmaat 86)
Tottenham 1 (Lamela 60) Att: 52,183

Southampton 4 (Mane 43, Pelle 61, Bertrand pen 75, S Davis 87)
Crystal Palace 1 (Puncheon 64) Att: 31,313

Stoke 2 (Imbula 55, Diouf 88)
West Ham 1 (Antonio 23) Att: 27,721

Swansea 1 (Ayew 45+1)
Manchester City 1 (Iheanacho 5) Att: 20,934

Watford 2 (Prodl 48, Deeney pen 61)
Sunderland 2 (Rodwell 39, Lens 51) Att: 21,012

West Bromwich 1 (Rondon 13)
Liverpool 1 (Ibe 23) Att: 26,196

May 17 **Manchester United 3** (Rooney 43, Rashford 74, Young 87)
Bournemouth 1 (Smalling og 90+3) Att: 74,363

HOWARD JOHNSON

PSG clean up

Capital club sweep the domestic board

You've won four trophies, you've smashed all your domestic rivals to smithereens and you've romped away with the league title by a frankly ridiculous 31 points, clinching the championship as early as March, with eight games still to play, and on the back of a thumping 9-0 victory over Troyes.

It's got to be all smiles at Paris Saint-Germain, right? Well, not exactly – and that's the problem when you're the biggest of big fish in a relatively small pond.

PSG's Qatari owners now appear to see a domestic clean sweep as nothing more than a minimum requirement, a mere stepping stone on the way to the club's ultimate and often-stated goal of winning the Champions League. And while domestic success is all very nice, it does seem to be bothering their investors that Laurent Blanc's side couldn't get passed underperforming Manchester City and progress to the semi-finals of Europe's premier competition.

Such are the demands being placed on the coach of the capital club, Blanc is probably right to feel hard done by – and his press-conference manner suggests that's his permanent mental state these days. He's chippy, combative and gives the impression of being a man under siege.

Yet while it's true that PSG were insipid against City, that's hardly surprising when you're only involved in genuinely tough matches half-a-dozen times a season.

PSG lost only twice in their 38 league games, scored 102 goals and conceded just 19. They won the French Super Cup with a 2-0 victory over Lyon in Montreal, bagged the League Cup with a 2-1 win against Lille and added the French Cup with an easy 4-2 stroll against Marseille to round things off.

Mixed fortunes ...Toulouse (in purple) and Angers

When a club can do all that with ease, it's clearly not the best preparation for stepping up a level to take on the best that Europe has to offer.

PSG's talismanic striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic signed off both his season and his four-year stay in the capital in style, with two goals against OM in the Cup Final. Having previously announced his departure via Twitter – "I came like a king, I left like a legend" – the 34-year-old was keen to make a big exit, which he duly did.

"I loved every day I spent here," said the Swede, who won the French Ligue 1 title four times and became the club's all-time leading goalscorer in the process. "PSG has become a star club and I played a key role moving it forward." Modest to the last, that Ibra...

PSG will, of course, have trouble replacing their star forward, but a much bigger problem is the fact that there's currently nobody in France even remotely capable of offering the champions any serious competition.

Traditional rivals Marseille spent the whole campaign in crisis, lurching from ▸

> "I came like a king, I left like a legend"
> Zlatan Ibrahimovic on departing PSG

Signing off...Zlatan Ibrahimovic lifts the Ligue 1 title for a fourth time before saying farewell to Paris

THE BREAKDOWN

TEAM OF THE SEASON

THE CUP FINAL

Like a boxing mismatch, PSG softened up Marseille in a first half that saw the sides go in 1-1 at the break, before delivering a knockout blow in the second period to win 4-2. Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored twice in his last game for PSG.

RELEGATED & PROMOTED

Two of the teams that had joined France's elite 12 months earlier went straight back down again, with Troyes and GFC Ajaccio slipping through the trapdoor. Reims join them in Ligue 2 next season. Nancy, Dijon and Metz replace them.

Europa...Nice (in red) and Saint-Etienne

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS

Paris Saint-Germain and Lyon qualified for the Champions League group stage, while Monaco will play in the third qualifying round. Nice are in the group, stage of the Europa League, while Lille and Saint-Etienne will play in the qualifiers.

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
In his last season in Ligue 1 before parting company with Paris Saint-Germain, Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored an incredible 38 goals in just 31 league games. In total, the Swede scored 156 goals in his 180 games for the capital club.

COACH OF THE SEASON
Despite a domestic clean sweep of four trophies, the consistent inability of Laurent Blanc to take Paris Saint-Germain to the semi-finals of the Champions League puts question marks over his future.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Teenage striker Ousmane Dembele only made his Rennes debut in November, but he took Ligue 1 by storm, notching 12 goals in 26 games. Tracked by a host of clubs, he signed a five-year deal with Germany's Borussia Dortmund in May.

Romp...PSG celebrate beating Marseille in the Cup Final and making it four domestic trophies out of four

one shambolic performance to the next. Lauded coach Marcelo Bielsa clearly knew something most of us only suspected when he bailed after the very first match of the season, a 1-0 home defeat to Caen.

The Argentinian said he couldn't accept the instability at the club. So in came Michel, only for the Spaniard to get his marching orders in April with the team in disarray and 15th in the table. Under an interim coaching team of Franck Passi and Basile Boli, OM eventually finished a miserable 13th, a whopping 48 points behind PSG. Embarrassing doesn't come close, and the French Cup defeat by the champions merely underlined the enormous gulf between the two outfits. It's no surprise that owner Margarita Louis-Dreyfus put Marseille up for sale in April, but finding a buyer for a club that's always mired in rumour, counter-rumour and scandal won't be a walk in the park.

Elsewhere, Lyon's brand new Parc Olympique stadium inspired Bruno Genesio's men to snatch the runners-up spot from Monaco; this after previous incumbent Hubert Fournier was unceremoniously dumped on Christmas Eve following a poor first half of the season that saw Lyon in ninth place and out of the Champions League at the winter break. Genesio galvanised the team and striker Alexandre Lacazette was again impressive with 21 league goals. Only Ibrahimovic fared better, with a massive haul of 38.

Monaco's third place – they were equal with Lyon on points, but with a vastly inferior goal difference – didn't seem to satisfy everybody, and Portuguese coach Leonardo Jardim's position is reportedly under threat. Given that the big-spending days of three seasons ago seem to be over, Jardim may feel that getting his team into the third qualifying round of the Champions League was good enough. Time will tell if he's still there come July when those matches are played.

Fourth-placed Nice, with Hatem Ben Arfa contributing 17 goals and six assists, made it into the Europa League, as did Lille in fifth place. Saint-Etienne had PSG's French Cup win to thank for freeing up another Europa League place for the team finishing in sixth spot.

Down at the bottom, Toulouse performed the season's most remarkable escape act under coach Pascal Dupraz. The former Evian boss came on board in March with Toulouse 10 points from safety and with just 10 games left. As if the task wasn't tough enough, four days later the 53-year-old suffered a heart problem during a training session that saw him hospitalised for five days. Yet having missed the 1-1 draw away at Marseille, and against all odds, he then oversaw an incredible run of nine matches in which Toulouse picked up 15 points to avoid the drop. A pulsating 3-2 victory at Angers on the last day of the season condemned Reims, whose impressive 4-1 victory over Lyon wasn't enough to save them.

"These players are all heroes," said an emotional Dupraz afterwards. "I've been telling them for two months that we could do it. And now we have. It's just fabulous!"

Joining the top flight next season will be Ligue 2 champions Nancy, together with Dijon and Metz.

Special praise must go to Caen and Angers. While neither managed to push themselves into a European spot, both had outstanding campaigns given their meagre resources. Under Patrice Garande, Caen finished seventh, while Stephane Moulin's Angers were ninth.

Both were ahead of Bordeaux in 11th. Champions in 2009, they are a pale shadow of their former selves and Willy Sagnol paid the price when he was relieved of his duties as coach in March.

It's to be hoped that former keeper and Bordeaux stalwart Ulrich Rame can bring better times next term. WS

Unrest...Marseille's poor season saw fans calling for change

Impressive...Lyon's Alexandre Lacazette

LIGUE 1: 2015-16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSG	38	30	6	2	102	19	96
Lyon	38	19	8	11	67	43	65
Monaco	38	17	14	7	57	50	65
Nice	38	18	9	11	58	41	63
Lille	38	15	15	8	39	27	60
Saint-Etienne	38	17	7	14	42	37	58
Caen	38	16	6	16	39	52	54
Rennes	38	13	13	12	52	54	52
Angers	38	13	11	14	40	38	50
Bastia	38	14	8	16	36	42	50
Bordeaux	38	12	14	12	50	57	50
Montpellier	38	14	7	17	49	47	49
Marseille	38	10	18	10	48	42	48
Nantes	38	12	12	14	33	44	48
Lorient	38	11	13	14	47	58	46
Guingamp	38	11	11	16	47	56	44
Toulouse	38	9	13	16	45	55	40
Reims	38	10	9	19	44	57	39
GFC Ajaccio	38	8	13	17	37	58	37
Troyes	38	3	9	26	28	83	18

SIX KEY MATCHES

AUG 8, 2015
Marseille begin their campaign with a 1-0 loss at home to Caen and coach Marcelo Bielsa resigns immediately afterwards, unhappy with the club's direction. It is the start of a disastrous season for OM.

FEB 28, 2016
PSG lose for the first time all season in the league, going down 2-1 to Lyon. The defeat ends a run of 36 league games unbeaten.

Over...Lyon (in white) end PSG's run

MAR 13, 2016
PSG hammer Troyes 9-0 away from home to win their fourth successive title, and sixth in total, with eight games still to play.

MAR 20, 2016
Second-place Monaco beat PSG 2-0 at the Parc des Princes to end a run of 34 games without defeat at home for the capital club.

Home reverse...Monaco (white) beat PSG

MAY 7, 2016
Lyon thrash Monaco 6-1 to claim the runners-up spot and a place in the group stage of the Champions League.

MAY 14, 2016
Toulouse beat Angers 3-2 away from home to escape relegation on the last day of the season after an incredible run that produced 15 points from a possible 27.

Great escape...Toulouse survive

Aug 7, 2015 **Lille 0**
Paris Saint-Germain 1
(Lucas Moura 57) Att: 39,601

Aug 8 **Bastia 2** (Ayite 50, Kamano 69)
Rennes 1 (Sio 39) Att: 14,702

Marseille 0
Caen 1 (Delort 27) Att: 56,158

Montpellier 0
Angers 2 (Camara 4, Sunu 79)
Att: 11,789

Nantes 1 (Sorbon og 89)
Guingamp 0 Att: 27,248

Nice 1 (Germain 7)
Monaco 2 (Bernardo Silva 51, Kurzawa 62) Att: 25,173

Troyes 0
GFC Ajaccio 0 Att: 10,858

Aug 9 **Bordeaux 1** (Khazri 41)
Reims 2 (De Preville 80, Siebatcheu 87) Att: 31,549

Lyon 0
Lorient 0 Att: 28,116

Toulouse 2 (Braithwaite 26, Ben Yedder 53)
Saint-Etienne 1 (Perrin 17) Att: 15,064

Aug 14 **Monaco 0**
Lille 0 Att: 13,284

Aug 15 **Angers 0**
Nantes 0 Att: 15,969

Caen 1 (Da Silva 69)
Toulouse 0 Att: 16,791

Aug 15...Rennes v Montpellier

Guingamp 0
Lyon 1 (Beauvue 79) Att: 17,728

Rennes 1 (Grosicki 85)
Montpellier 0 Att: 18,747

Saint-Etienne 1 (Hamouma 58)
Bordeaux 1 (Saivet 90+1) Att: 34,061

Troyes 3 (Jean 3, Camus 77, Thiago Xavier 90+3)
Nice 3 (Ben Arfa pen 6, Plea 16, Le Marchand 42) Att: 11,468

Aug 16 **Lorient 1** (Moukandjo pen 90+1)
Bastia 1 (Ayite 4) Att: 12,206

Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Matuidi 11, Thiago Silva 21)
GFC Ajaccio 0 Att: 46,524

Reims 1 (Traore 14)
Marseille 0 Att: 20,952

Aug 21 **Montpellier 0**
Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Matuidi 61)
Att: 27,163

Aug 22 **Bastia 3** (Palmieri 5, Baca og 39, Coulibaly 90)
Guingamp 0 Att: 13,966

GFC Ajaccio 0
Angers 2 (N'Doye 2, 20) Att: 3,911

Lyon 1 (Fekir 12)
Rennes 2 (Pedro Henrique 7, Zeffane 56) Att: 31,470

Nantes 1 (Lenjani 77)
Reims 0 Att: 23,854

Nice 2 (Ben Arfa 66, Plea 77)
Caen 1 (Delort 67) Att: 15,908

Toulouse 1 (Doumbia 22)
Monaco 1 (Lemar 65) Att: 12,662

Aug 23 **Lille 0**
Bordeaux 0 Att: 28,035

Lorient 0
Saint-Etienne 1 (Hamouma 87)
Att: 13,064

Marseille 6 (Barrada 19, Diarra 47, Batshuayi 56, 90, Ocampos 63, Alessandrini 88)
Troyes 0 Att: 54,056

Aug 28 **Guingamp 2** (Privat 72, Benezet 89)
Marseille 0 Att: 18,022

Aug 29 **Angers 1** (Mangani 24)
Nice 1 (Germain 56) Att: 13,485

Caen 0
Lyon 4 (Fekir 19, 44, 57, Beauvue 87)
Att: 19,795

Lille 1 (Boufal 23)
GFC Ajaccio 0 Att: 27,138

Reims 4 (Charbonnier 23, De Preville 54, Kyei 66, Turan 85)
Lorient 1 (Bouanga 48) Att: 11,051

Rennes 3 (Yago og 17, Armand 68, Sio 90)
Toulouse 1 (Braithwaite 5) Att: 18,560

Troyes 0
Montpellier 0 Att: 11,094

Aug 30 **Bordeaux 2** (Khazri 45+2, Gajic 87)
Nantes 0 Att: 26,293

Monaco 0
Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Cavani 57, 73, Lavezzi 83) Att: 16,124

Saint-Etienne 2 (Perrin 20, Eysseric 62)
Bastia 1 (Danic 41) Att: 26,249

Sep 11 **Paris Saint-Germain 2** (Cavani 27, 34)
Bordeaux 2 (Saivet 31, Khazri 79)
Att: 46,860

Sep 12 **Lorient 3** (Jouffre 46, Waris 73, Jeannot 90+3)
Angers 1 (Saiss 33) Att: 9,872

Lyon 0
Lille 0 Att: 32,137

Montpellier 1 (Marveaux 90+2)
Saint-Etienne 2 (Bayal Sall 24, Roux 59) Att: 10,734

Nice 0
Guingamp 1 (Sankhare 76) Att: 14,421

Toulouse 2 (Kana-Biyik 28, Braithwaite 30)
Reims 2 (Siebatcheu 56, Bulot 80)
Att: 11,763

Troyes 1 (Othon 90+2)
Caen 3 (Feret 21, Ben Youssef 38, Bessat 63) Att: 10,795

Sep 13 **GFC Ajaccio 0**
Monaco 1 (Fabinho pen 17) Att: 3,880

Marseille 4 (Mendy 15, Alessandrini 46, 66, Batshuayi 70)
Bastia 1 (Brandao 78) Att: 46,280

Nantes 0
Rennes 2 (Ntep 67, Sio 89) Att: 27,262

Sep 18 **Rennes 1** (Ntep 74)
Lille 1 (Boufal 49) Att: 27,391

Sep 19 **Angers 1** (Mangani pen 57)
Troyes 0 Att: 10,155

Bastia 1 (Danic 24)
Nice 3 (N Mendy 33, Germain 40, Benrahma 90+4) Att: 13,027

Caen 2 (Rodelin 19, Louis 90+3)
Montpellier 1 (Martin pen 32)

Sep 27...Nice v Saint-Etienne

Att: 15,069

Guingamp 2 (Privat 23, Briand 61)
GFC Ajaccio 1 (Mangane 35)
Att: 13,490

Reims 1 (Siebatcheu 83)
Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Cavani 84)
Att: 20,513

Sep 20 **Bordeaux 1** (Crivelli 89)
Toulouse 1 (Regattin 23) Att: 20,650

Marseille 1 (Rekik 68)
Lyon 1 (Lacazette pen 25) Att: 56,194

Monaco 2 (Toure 21, Lemar 47)
Lorient 3 (Ndong 12, Jeannot 18, Moukandjo 59) Att: 6,140

Saint-Etienne 2 (Bamba 26, Beric 47)
Nantes 0 Att: 28,846

Sep 22 **Angers 0**
Reims 0 Att: 11,160

Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Pastore 18, Di Maria 77, Ibrahimovic 83)
Guingamp 0 Att: 45,138

Sep 23 **GFC Ajaccio 1** (Larbi 45+1)
Rennes 1 (Sio 89) Att: 3,576

Lorient 2 (Moukandjo 13, Waris 36)
Caen 0 Att: 9,076

Lyon 2 (Kalulu 18, Tolisso 88)
Bastia 0 Att: 25,658

Nice 6 (Germain 33, Le Bihan 42, Pallois og 52, Ben Arfa 68, 75, A Mendy 84)
Bordeaux 1 (Plasil 6) Att: 13,686

Toulouse 1 (Braithwaite 67)
Marseille 1 (Batshuayi 90) Att: 18,346

Troyes 0
Saint-Etienne 1 (Ayasse og 13)
Att: 12,090

Sep 24 **Montpellier 2** (Congre 26, Carrillo og 45)
Monaco 3 (Fabio Coentrao 56, Lemar 65, Fabinho pen 90+5) Att: 10,033

Sep 25 **Reims 1** (N'Gog 56)
Lille 0 Att: 11,676

Sep 26 **Bastia 3** (Palmieri 8, Squillaci 31, 43)
Toulouse 0 Att: 10,740

Bordeaux 3 (Khazri 17, Plasil 40, Pablo 45+2)
Lyon 1 (Beauvue 78) Att: 26,593

Caen 2 (Rodelin 28, Imorou 55)
GFC Ajaccio 0 Att: 15,835

Nantes 1 (Bammou 11)
Paris Saint-Germain 4 (Ibrahimovic 48, Cavani 73, Di Maria 80, Aurier 90+1)
Att: 31,410

Rennes 1 (Diagne 71)
Troyes 1 (Pi 11) Att: 20,170

Sep 27 **Guingamp 3** (Privat 30, Benezet 65, 89)
Monaco 3 (Bernardo Silva 15, Raggi 45, Dirar 71) Att: 13,987

Marseille 1 (Batshuayi pen 79)
Angers 2 (Mangani pen 38, Thomas 70) Att: 22,596

Montpellier 2 (Bensebaini 6, Martin 57)
Lorient 1 (Abdullah 48) Att: 10,518

Saint-Etienne 1 (Perrin 19)
Nice 4 (Koziello 5, Ben Arfa 39, 45+1, Seri 53) Att: 24,556

Sep 29 **Lille 0**
Nantes 1 (Iloki 5) Att: 27,667

Oct 2 **Lille 2** (Boufal pen 43, Sidibe 64)
Montpellier 0 Att: 30,895

Oct 3 **Angers 1** (Ketkeophomphone 41)
Bastia 0 Att: 11,444

GFC Ajaccio 2 (Mayi 25, Pujol 44)
Toulouse 2 (Braithwaite 21, Sylla og 49)
Att: 3,465

Lyon 1 (Lacazette 44)
Reims 0 Att: 30,089

Troyes 0
Guingamp 1 (Sankhare 81) Att: 14,225

Oct 4 **Caen 1** (Delort 62)
Saint-Etienne 0 Att: 19,070

Lorient 3 (Moukandjo 47, Waris pen 64, Toure 79)
Bordeaux 2 (Rolan 38, Ounas 89)
Att: 10,402

Monaco 1 (Wallace 51)
Rennes 1 (Doucoure 41) Att: 5,552

Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Ibrahimovic pen 41, pen 44)
Marseille 1 (Batshuayi 30) Att: 47,199

Oct 16 **Monaco 1** (Pasalic 39)
Lyon 1 (Rafael 84) Att: 9,513

Oct 17 **Bastia 0**
Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Ibrahimovic 72, 83) Att: 13,066

Guingamp 1 (Briand 33)
Lille 1 (Boufal 30) Att: 13,084

Nantes 3 (Rongier 41, Sabaly 50, Bammou 62)
Troyes 0 Att: 24,402

Reims 0
Caen 1 (Feret 74) Att: 10,552

Saint-Etienne 2 (Beric 20, Monnet-Paquet 70)
GFC Ajaccio 0 Att: 28,041

Toulouse 1 (Trejo 24)
Angers 2 (N'Doye 27, Camara 34)
Att: 13,885

Oct 18 **Bordeaux 0**
Montpellier 0 Att: 23,881

Marseille 1 (Batshuayi pen 21)
Lorient 1 (Moukandjo 37) Att: 32,232

Rennes 1 (Grosicki 88)
Nice 4 (Bodmer 14, Ben Arfa 53, Traore 75, Benrahma 80) Att: 21,706

Oct 23 **Caen 0**
Nantes 2 (Bammou 23, Thomasson 61)
Att: 19,571

Lyon 3 (Darder 18, Valbuena 69, Cornet 90+4)
Toulouse 0 Att: 32,327

Oct 24 **Angers 0**
Guingamp 0 Att: 14,413

GFC Ajaccio 3 (Pujol 1, Filippi 32, Djokovic 43)
Nice 1 (Filippi og 12) Att: 3,757

Lorient 1 (Raphael Guerreiro 25)
Rennes 1 (Grosicki 68) Att: 14,492

Montpellier 2 (Boudebouz 63, Ninga 88)
Bastia 0 Att: 12,240

Oct 25 **Bordeaux 1** (Ounas 78)
Troyes 0 Att: 21,082

Lille 1 (Corchia 71)
Marseille 2 (Batshuayi 37, Alessandrini 56) Att: 35,623

Paris Saint-Germain 4 (Kurzawa 23, Cavani 48, Ibrahimovic 67, Lucas Moura 87)
Saint-Etienne 1 (Verratti og 74)
Att: 47,385

Reims 0
Monaco 1 (Bernardo Silva 11)
Att: 14,238

Oct 30 **Rennes 0**
Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Di Maria 75)
Att: 28,844

Oct 31 **Bastia 1** (Diallo 31)
Caen 0 Att: 10,386

GFC Ajaccio 2 (Larbi 44, 68)
Bordeaux 0 Att: 3,628

Guingamp 2 (Briand 1, Salibur 83)
Lorient 2 (Moukandjo pen 64, 90+3)
Att: 14,085

Saint-Etienne 3 (Beric 63, Oniangue og 68, Eysseric 83)
Reims 0 Att: 28,824

Toulouse 1 (Machach 39)
Montpellier 1 (Roussillon 34)
Att: 8,883

Troyes 0
Lyon 1 (Beauvue pen 78) Att: 14,877

Nov 1 **Monaco 1** (Pasalic 35)
Angers 0 Att: 6,075

Nantes 0
Marseille 1 (Nkoudou 53) Att: 27,392

Nice 0
Lille 0 Att: 18,169

Nov 4 **Nice 1** (Genevois 42)
Nantes 2 (Alegue 11, Sigthorsson 70)
Att: 17,531

Nov 6 **Angers 0**
Rennes 2 (Doucoure 4, Fernandes 61)
Att: 15,201

Nov 7 **Caen 2** (Feret 62, Delort 71)
Guingamp 1 (Leveque 85) Att: 16,111

Lille 1 (Sidibe 87)
Bastia 1 (Danic 73) Att: 30,852

Lorient 4 (Jeannot 33, Moukandjo 58, pen 90+2, Ndong 78)
Troyes 1 (Nivet pen 63) Att: 9,338

Montpellier 2 (Roussillon 12, Hilton 90)
Nantes 1 (Bammou 63) Att: 15,356

Paris Saint-Germain 5 (Di Maria 6, Ibrahimovic 18, 75, Lucas Moura 66, Lavezzi 79)
Toulouse 0 Att: 47,381

Reims 1 (Kyei 77)
GFC Ajaccio 2 (Boutaib 34, Zoua 71)
Att: 11,393

Nov 8 **Bordeaux 3** (Maurice-Belay 36, Yambere 40, Plasil 48)
Monaco 1 (Helder Costa 23) Att: 21,090

Lyon 3 (Lacazette 41, 59, 90+3)
Saint-Etienne 0 Att: 38,752

Marseille 0
Nice 1 (Germain 16) Att: 47,988

Nov 20 **Nice 3** (Germain 20, Yanga-Mbiwa og 49, Koziello 71)
Lyon 0 Att: 17,872

Nov 21 **Guingamp 2** (Privat 59, Salibur 70)
Toulouse 0 Att: 12,737

Lorient 1 (Moukandjo 82)
Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Ongenda 26, Matuidi 32) Att: 15,417

Monaco 1 (Pasalic 43)
Nantes 0 Att: 5,733

Montpellier 3 (Yatabare 21, Camara 69, Dabo 84)
Reims 1 (Weber 12) Att: 9,455

Troyes 1 (Jean 69)
Lille 1 (Benzia 9) Att: 10,407

Nov 22 **Bastia 1** (Brandao 5)
GFC Ajaccio 2 (Zoua pen 19, Boutaib 70) Att: 11,901

Caen 0
Angers 0 Att: 18,101

Rennes 2 (Dembele 32, Grosicki 75)
Bordeaux 2 (Crivelli 41, Contento 78) Att: 23,289

Saint-Etienne 0
Marseille 2 (Batshuayi 41, Nkoudou 51) Att: 34,681

Nov 27 **Lyon 2** (Lacazette 14, Ghezzal 84)
Montpellier 4 (Gonalons og 8, Ninga 11, 48, Camara 80) Att: 29,960

Nov 28 **Angers 2** (Sunu 20, Traore 25)
Lille 0 Att: 12,000

GFC Ajaccio 1 (Larbi 18)
Lorient 1 (Moukandjo pen 31) Att: 3,514

Nantes 0
Bastia 0 Att: 25,978

Paris Saint-Germain 4 (Cavani 20, Ibrahimovic pen 58, Kurzawa 67, Augustin 84)
Troyes 1 (Ayasse 90+1) Att: 45,932

Reims 2 (Mandi 58, De Preville 67)
Rennes 2 (Boga 44, Grosicki 81) Att: 9,289

Toulouse 2 (Braithwaite pen 31, Ben Yedder 58)
Nice 0 Att: 9,913

Nov 29 **Bordeaux 1** (Crivelli 90)
Caen 4 (Ben Youssef 6, Da Silva 56, Carrasso og 61, Delort 77) Att: 18,830

Marseille 3 (Alessandrini 12, Batshuayi 51, Nkoudou 82)
Monaco 3 (Toure 18, 39, Fabio Coentrao 72) Att: 42,882

Saint-Etienne 3 (Hamouma 52, Eysseric pen 87, Roux 90+5)
Guingamp 0 Att: 25,249

Dec 1 **Angers 0**
Paris Saint-Germain 0 Att: 16,381

Lorient 0
Nice 0 Att: 9,197

Nantes 0
Lyon 0 Att: 20,896

Dec 2 **Bastia 1** (Raspentino 88)
Bordeaux 0 Att: 10,135

Guingamp 1 (Salibur 45+3)
Reims 2 (N'Gog 14, 54) Att: 14,046

Lille 1 (Benzia 60)
Saint-Etienne 0 Att: 29,103

Monaco 1 (Carrillo 56)
Caen 1 (Rodelin 86) Att: 5,388

Montpellier 0
GFC Ajaccio 2 (Zoua 45+3, Tshibumbu 74) Att: 9,332

Troyes 0
Toulouse 3 (Diop 2, Akpa Akpro 49, Pesic 86) Att: 10,183

Dec 3 **Rennes 0**
Marseille 1 (Cabella 21) Att: 23,424

Dec 4 **Nice 0**
Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Cavani 35, Ibrahimovic pen 44, 61) Att: 31,008

Dec 5 **Bastia 1** (Romain 90)
Monaco 2 (L Traore 72, 84) Att: 10,596

Caen 1 (Delort pen 70)
Lille 2 (Benzia 28, 56) Att: 15,952

GFC Ajaccio 1 (Tshibumbu 84)
Nantes 1 (Sala 56) Att: 3,614

Lyon 0
Angers 2 (N'Doye 17, 81) Att: 36,068

Reims 1 (De Preville 36)
Troyes 1 (Pi 47) Att: 10,765

Toulouse 2 (Kana-Biyik 41, Ben Yedder 59)
Lorient 3 (Jeannot 47, 48, Mesloub 76) Att: 14,333

Dec 6 **Bordeaux 1** (Yambere 62)
Guingamp 0 Att: 22,606

Marseille 2 (Cabella 48, Sarr 72)
Montpellier 2 (Ninga 32, 56) Att: 41,486

Saint-Etienne 1 (Eysseric pen 78)
Rennes 1 (Pedro Henrique 40) Att: 26,668

Dec 11 **Rennes 1** (Quintero 62)
Caen 1 (Ben Youssef 79) Att: 23,471

Dec 12 **Lille 3** (Bautheac 28, 55, Sidibe 84)
Lorient 0 Att: 28,170

Montpellier 2 (Camara 54, Ninga 62)
Guingamp 1 (Privat 32) Att: 10,846

Nantes 1 (Sala 86)
Toulouse 1 (Pesic 53) Att: 18,851

Reims 1 (Diego pen 78)
Nice 1 (Germain 6) Att: 12,536

Troyes 1 (Cabot 59)
Bastia 1 (Fofana 23) Att: 10,117

Dec 13 **Angers 1** (Thomas 83)
Bordeaux 1 (Rolan 40) Att: 13,701

Marseille 1 (Batshuayi 38)
GFC Ajaccio 1 (Zoua pen 19) Att: 40,298

Monaco 1 (Fabinho pen 82)
Saint-Etienne 0 Att: 7,213

Paris Saint-Germain 5 (Ibrahimovic 11, pen 77, Aurier 17, Cavani 61, Lucas Moura 90+1)
Lyon 1 (Ferri 24) Att: 46,650

Dec 18 **Nice 1** (Boscagli 31)
Montpellier 0 Att: 14,026

Dec 19 **Bastia 2** (Ayite 21, Romain 79)
Reims 0 Att: 10,528

Caen 0
Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Di Maria 16, 50, Ibrahimovic 36) Att: 20,679

Guingamp 0
Rennes 2 (Dembele 63, Sio 77) Att: 16,196

Lorient 0
Nantes 0 Att: 14,709

Toulouse 1 (Ben Yedder 12)
Lille 1 (Boufal 87) Att: 14,842

Troyes 0
Monaco 0 Att: 16,266

Dec 20 **Bordeaux 1** (Khazri 57)
Marseille 1 (Romao 56) Att: 39,672

GFC Ajaccio 2 (Larbi 32, 67)
Lyon 1 (Grenier 72) Att: 4,125

Saint-Etienne 1 (Corgnet 61)
Angers 0 Att: 30,985

Jan 8, 2016 **Paris Saint-Germain 2** (Thiago Motta 29, Maxwell 39)
Bastia 0 Att: 44,879

Jan 9 **Angers 2** (Capelle 41, Ketkeophomphone 74)
Caen 0 Att: 12,206

Lyon 4 (Lacazette 18, Ghezzal 72, Ferri 81, Beauvue 90+2)
Troyes 1 (Camus 67) Att: 55,168

Monaco 2 (Fabinho pen 51, Ricardo Carvalho 73)
GFC Ajaccio 2 (Boutaib 9, Tshibumbu 31) Att: 5,542

Montpellier 0
Bordeaux 1 (Diabate 16) Att: 10,603

Reims 1 (Devaux 12)
Toulouse 3 (Ben Yedder 51, 66, 90) Att: 13,192

Rennes 2 (Dembele 35, Boga 41)
Lorient 2 (Diagne og 4, Waris 22) Att: 26,936

Jan 10 **Lille 1** (Benzia 11)
Nice 1 (Hult 45) Att: 30,238

Marseille 0
Guingamp 0 Att: 38,948

Nantes 2 (Audel 29, Sigthorsson 77)
Saint-Etienne 1 (Roux pen 14) Att: 25,509

Jan 22 **Rennes 1** (Filippi og 90+1)
GFC Ajaccio 0 Att: 18,022

Jan 23 **Guingamp 1** (Giresse pen 90+4)
Bastia 0 Att: 14,065

Lille 1 (Boufal pen 25)
Troyes 3 (Cabot 77, 80, Pi 86) Att: 26,431

Montpellier 1 (Bensebaini 23)
Caen 2 (Rodelin 40, Delort 52) Att: 9,076

Nantes 2 (Sigthorsson 1, Bedoya 30)
Bordeaux 2 (Diabate 84, Cana og 90+1) Att: 21,893

Nice 2 (Ben Arfa 35, Koziello 44)
Lorient 1 (Jouffre 24) Att: 13,871

Paris Saint-Germain 5 (Ibrahimovic 33, Lucas Moura 40, Van der Wiel 54, Di Maria 63, 66)
Angers 1 (Capelle 59) Att: 46,199

Jan 24 **Lyon 1** (Tolisso 78)
Marseille 1 (Cabella 64) Att: 56,105

Monaco 4 (Bernardo Silva 28, Fabio Coentrao 36, Carrillo 70, Helder Costa 90+3)
Toulouse 0 Att: 5,628

Reims 1 (Mandi 89)
Saint-Etienne 1 (Bahebeck 60) Att: 13,048

Feb 2 **Monaco 2** (Modesto og 35, Bernardo Silva 73)
Bastia 0 Att: 5,607

Montpellier 0
Marseille 1 (Nkoudou 68) Att: 16,756

Feb 3 **Guingamp 4** (Erdinc 5, Sankhare 46, Giresse 56, Blas 90)
Troyes 0 Att: 13,973

Lille 1 (Soumaoro 59)
Caen 0 Att: 27,312

Lyon 3 (Lacazette 41, 87, Kalulu 90+3)
Bordeaux 0 Att: 30,143

Nantes 3 (Sala 14, Bedoya 23, Adryan 58)
GFC Ajaccio 1 (Mayi 26) Att: 24,799

Nice 1 (Ben Arfa 82)
Toulouse 0 Att: 12,828

Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Cavani 6, Ibrahimovic 55, Kurzawa 69)
Lorient 1 (Raphael Guerreiro 19) Att: 45,358

Reims 2 (Traore 43, Charbonnier 50)
Angers 1 (Bouka Moutou 15) Att: 10,603

Feb 4 **Rennes 0**
Saint-Etienne 1 (Bayal Sall 74) Att: 18,049

Feb 6 **Angers 0**

Jan 30...Angers v Monaco

Jan 15 **Nice 2** (Ben Arfa pen 80, pen 84)
Angers 1 (Capelle 24) Att: 13,600

Jan 16 **Bastia 1** (Ayite 48)
Montpellier 0 Att: 10,337

Bordeaux 1 (Diabate 51)
Lille 0 Att: 21,207

GFC Ajaccio 2 (Boutaib 2, Djokovic 72)
Reims 2 (De Preville 22, 31) Att: 3,568

Guingamp 2 (Benezet 3, Salibur 24)
Nantes 2 (Kerbrat og 64, Sabaly 90+2) Att: 13,762

Toulouse 0
Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Ibrahimovic 73) Att: 30,163

Troyes 2 (Camus 7, Jean 15)
Rennes 4 (Diagne pen 21, pen 39, Dembele 28, Grosicki 81) Att: 10,292

Jan 17 **Caen 1** (Rodelin 67)
Marseille 3 (Batshuayi 12, Nkoudou 60, Sarr 83) Att: 20,513

Lorient 0
Monaco 2 (Lemar 53, Joao Moutinho 57) Att: 10,742

Saint-Etienne 1 (Soderlund 76)
Lyon 0 Att: 36,503

Jan 29 **Marseille 1** (Rabillard 90+6)
Lille 1 (Corchia 57) Att: 40,187

Jan 30 **Angers 3** (N'Doye 19, 43, Yattara 55)
Monaco 0 Att: 13,598

Bastia 1 (Brandao 69)
Lyon 0 Att: 10,908

GFC Ajaccio 0
Montpellier 4 (Yatabare 14, Martin pen 41, Dabo 52, 57) Att: 3,629

Lorient 2 (Toure 15, 51)
Reims 0 Att: 10,002

Toulouse 1 (Ben Yedder pen 64)
Guingamp 2 (Sankhare 12, Briand 72) Att: 20,095

Troyes 0
Nantes 1 (Gillet 41) Att: 11,592

Jan 31 **Bordeaux 4** (Diabate 29, 51, Rolan 67, Toure 90+2)
Rennes 0 Att: 19,883

Caen 2 (Rodelin 12, Delort pen 41)
Nice 0 Att: 17,061

Saint-Etienne 0
Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Ibrahimovic 61, 90+2) Att: 32,689

Lyon 3 (Jallet 13, Ghezzal 46, Tolisso 81) Att: 15,381

Bastia 2 (Ayite 10, pen 83)
Troyes 0 Att: 10,441

Caen 0
Reims 2 (Bifouma 20, Oniangue 63) Att: 16,018

GFC Ajaccio 0
Guingamp 0 Att: 3,569

Lorient 1 (Cabot 49)
Montpellier 1 (Berigaud 45+2) Att: 9,075

Monaco 1 (Bakayoko 81)
Nice 0 Att: 12,842

Toulouse 0
Nantes 0 Att: 11,568

Feb 7 **Bordeaux 1** (Yambere 10)
Saint-Etienne 4 (Pajot 4, Tannane 7, Soderlund 70, Roux 75) Att: 34,377

Lille 1 (Eder 42)
Rennes 1 (Dembele pen 89) Att: 29,012

Marseille 1 (Cabella 25)
Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Ibrahimovic 2, Di Maria 71) Att: 63,235

Feb 12 **Rennes 1** (Bouka Moutou og 90+2)
Angers 0 Att: 18,349

Feb 13 **GFC Ajaccio 2** (Zoua 1, Filippi 57)
Troyes 3 (Ben Saada 8, Azamoum 36, 43) Att: 3,485

Guingamp 2 (Giresse 42, Coco 58)
Bordeaux 4 (Ounas 19, Rolan 37, Chantome 68, Diabate 89) Att: 13,177

Montpellier 2 (Yatabare 24, Camara 88)
Toulouse 0 Att: 14,616

Nantes 2 (Adryan 10, Sala 39)
Lorient 1 (Moukandjo pen 79) Att: 22,256

Paris Saint-Germain 0
Lille 0 Att: 45,391

Reims 0
Bastia 1 (Ayite 48) Att: 11,342

Feb 14 **Lyon 4** (Umtiti 8, Lacazette 16, Cornet 45, Tolisso 83)
Caen 1 (Delort 58) Att: 38,467

Nice 1 (Germain 58)
Marseille 1 (Isla 36) Att: 28,659

Saint-Etienne 1 (Bayal Sall 57)
Monaco 1 (Vagner Love 84) Att: 31,868

Feb 19 **Bordeaux 0**
Nice 0 Att: 23,641

Feb 20 **Angers 2** (Bouka Moutou 65, Karanovic 90+2)
Montpellier 3 (Berigaud 2, Yatabare 7, Camara 34) Att: 11,163

Lorient 4 (Waris 39, 49, Jeannot 48, Raphael Guerreiro 90+3)
Guingamp 3 (Salibur 3, 37, Briand 59) Att: 12,216

Monaco 3 (Carrillo 25, 37, Mbappe Lottin 90+3)
Troyes 1 (Gueye 80) Att: 5,650

Paris Saint-Germain 4 (Van der Wiel 12, Ibrahimovic 43, 68, Cavani 45+1)
Reims 1 (Oniangue 34) Att: 45,489

Toulouse 1 (Braithwaite 90+1)
GFC Ajaccio 1 (Mayi 59) Att: 19,168

Feb 21 **Caen 1** (Ntibazonkiza 54)
Rennes 0 Att: 15,455

Lille 1 (Boufal 28)
Lyon 0 Att: 32,956

Marseille 1 (Batshuayi 90+4)
Saint-Etienne 1 (Monnet-Paquet 85) Att: 50,570

Feb 26 **Nice 0**
Bastia 2 (Diallo 61, Ayite 64) Att: 14,541

Feb 27 **Guingamp 2** (Privat 39, Giresse pen 66)
Angers 2 (Capelle 30, Ketkeophomphone pen 79) Att: 13,506

Montpellier 3 (Berigaud 52, Dabo 60, Skhiri 86)
Lille 0 Att: 9,576

Reims 4 (Mandi 23, Bifouma 34, Charbonnier 67, Bangoura 89)
Bordeaux 1 (Ounas 69) Att: 11,286

Toulouse 1 (Ben Yedder 78)
Rennes 2 (Dembele 90, Grosicki 90+2) Att: 11,621

Troyes 0
Lorient 1 (Waris 3) Att: 10,326

Feb 28 **Lyon 2** (Cornet 13, Darder 45+2)
Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Lucas Moura 51) Att: 56,662

Nantes 0
Monaco 0 Att: 25,866

Saint-Etienne 1 (Eysseric 90+1)
Caen 2 (Delort 78, Rodelin 82) Att: 29,475

Mar 4 **Caen 2** (Feret pen 64, Kouakou 89)
Monaco 2 (Lemar 56, Yahia og 69) Att: 17,926

Mar 5 **Angers 0**
Saint-Etienne 0 Att: 15,890

Bastia 0
Lorient 0 Att: 10,586

Bordeaux 1 (Diabate pen 38)
GFC Ajaccio 1 (Larbi 89) Att: 17,603

Lille 2 (Lopes 63, Eder 90+3)
Reims 0 Att: 27,904

Nice 2 (Germain 12, Traore 72)
Troyes 1 (Cardinale og 27) Att: 13,160

Paris Saint-Germain 0
Montpellier 0 Att: 45,173

Mar 6 **Lyon 5** (Ghezzal 3, Lacazette 17, 61, Cornet 35, Lemaitre og 86)
Guingamp 1 (Erdinc 11) Att: 33,133

Marseille 1 (Fletcher 74)
Toulouse 1 (Ben Yedder 55) Att: 41,080

Rennes 4 (Dembele 1, 23, 45, Grosicki 15)
Nantes 1 (Adryan 60) Att: 29,060

Mar 9 **Bastia 0**
Nantes 0 Att: 11,071

GFC Ajaccio 1 (Rekik og 84)
Marseille 1 (Cabella 79) Att: 4,103

Mar 11 **Monaco 2** (Vagner Love 5, 38)
Reims 2 (Charbonnier 11, Diego 79) Att: 5,738

Mar 12 **Bastia 1** (Danic 90+2)
Lille 2 (Boufal 37, Amadou 59) Att: 10,727

GFC Ajaccio 1 (Boutaib 70)
Caen 0 Att: 3,488

Guingamp 2 (Briand 7, Privat 24)
Saint-Etienne 0 Att: 13,981

Lorient 1 (Waris 34)
Marseille 1 (Isla 46) Att: 15,488

Montpellier 0
Nice 2 (Germain 62, Plea 76) Att: 13,462

Toulouse 4 (Ben Yedder 5, pen 50, Braithwaite pen 86, Trejo 90)
Bordeaux 0 Att: 12,288

Mar 13 **Nantes 2** (Sala 49, 69)
Angers 0 Att: 32,611

Rennes 2 (Diagne 70, Rafael og 82)
Lyon 2 (Ghezzal 33, Lacazette 55) Att: 25,830

Troyes 0
Paris Saint-Germain 9 (Cavani 13, 75, Pastore 17, Rabiot 19, Ibrahimovic 46, 52, 56, 88, Saunier og 59) Att: 19,184

Mar 18 **Marseille 2** (Thauvin 20, Rolando 50)
Rennes 5 (Gourcuff 4, 59, Diagne 9, Dembele 14, Sio 77) Att: 40,077

Mar 19 **Angers 5** (Ketkeophomphone 14, Mangani 34, pen 90+1, Saiss 40, N'Doye 81)
Lorient 1 (Waris 41) Att: 11,553

Caen 2 (Yahia 35, Rodelin 54)
Troyes 1 (Thiago Xavier 22) Att: 17,585

Mar 19...Caen v Troyes

Lille 1 (Amalfitano 17)
Toulouse 0 Att: 29,736

Lyon 2 (Perrin 83, Lacazette pen 90+4)
Nantes 0 Att: 47,505

Reims 0
Guingamp 1 (Sankhare 26) Att: 14,433

Saint-Etienne 3 (Roux 74, Tannane 80, Eysseric 84)
Montpellier 0 Att: 28,037

Mar 20 **Bordeaux 1** (Contento 82)
Bastia 1 (Ngando 85) Att: 21,956

Nice 3 (Ben Arfa 14, Plea 66, Seri 88)
GFC Ajaccio 0 Att: 19,066

Paris Saint-Germain 0
Monaco 2 (Vagner Love 65, Fabinho pen 68) Att: 46,569

Apr 1 **Monaco 1** (Guilbert og 90+3)
Bordeaux 2 (Toure 45+2, Ounas 56) Att: 6,852

Apr 2 **GFC Ajaccio 0**
Saint-Etienne 2 (Roux 15, Theophile-Catherine 58) Att: 3,665

Guingamp 2 (Salibur 5, Sorbon 47)
Montpellier 2 (Sanson 34, 53) Att: 13,640

Paris Saint-Germain 4 (Ibrahimovic 15, 34, 82, David Luiz 48)
Nice 1 (Ben Arfa 18) Att: 46,919

Rennes 3 (Grosicki 12, Dembele 15, 67)
Reims 1 (Mandi 59) Att: 24,828

Toulouse 2 (Rodelin og 30, Braithwaite 85)
Caen 0 Att: 13,997

Troyes 0
Angers 1 (Diers 90+2) Att: 10,472

Apr 3 **Bastia 2** (Rekik og 47, Danic pen 56)
Marseille 1 (Batshuayi 77) Att: 13,141

Lorient 1 (Waris 36)
Lyon 3 (Lacazette 44, 84, Ghezzal 81) Att: 15,132

Nantes 0
Lille 3 (Eder 19, 90+2, Sunzu 58) Att: 25,518

Apr 8 **Montpellier 0**
Lyon 2 (Cornet 34, 40) Att: 15,066

Apr 9 **Angers 0**
GFC Ajaccio 0 Att: 11,474

Caen 1 (Appiah 64)
Lorient 2 (Jeannot 17, Waris pen 47) Att: 17,408

Guingamp 0
Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Lucas Moura pen 56, 71) Att: 18,363

Reims 2 (Oniangue 11, Sabaly og 80)
Nantes 1 (Audel 68) Att: 12,143

Saint-Etienne 1 (Maupay 75)
Troyes 0 Att: 29,824

Toulouse 4 (Ben Yedder 57, 80, Braithwaite 62, Trejo 70)
Bastia 0 Att: 17,405

Apr 10 **Lille 4** (Amalfitano 37, Eder 67, Obbadi 77, Sidibe 88)
Monaco 1 (Bahlouli 90+2) Att: 32,125

Marseille 0
Bordeaux 0 Att: 43,344

Nice 3 (Ben Arfa pen 33, 41, 56)
Rennes 0 Att: 23,622

Apr 15 **Lyon 1** (Lacazette 82)
Nice 1 (Germain 18) Att: 55,749

Apr 16 **Bastia 0**
Saint-Etienne 1 (Roux 75) Att: 11,631

Bordeaux 1 (Rolan 70)
Angers 3 (N'Doye 61, Yattara 64, Bourillon 87) Att: 24,611

GFC Ajaccio 2 (Pujol 41, Toure 87)
Lille 4 (Boufal 19, 74, 84, Martinez og 88) Att: 3,605

Apr 3...Bastia v Marseille

Lorient 1 (Toure 90+1)
Toulouse 1 (Ben Yedder 49) Att: 13,212

Paris Saint-Germain 6 (Ibrahimovic 12, 57, Matuidi 45+2, Cavani 49, Di Maria 52, Maxwell 76)
Caen 0 Att: 44,807

Troyes 2 (Camus 50, Nivet pen 61)
Reims 1 (Bifouma 64) Att: 12,650

Apr 17 **Monaco 2** (Bernardo Silva 47, Raggi 75)
Marseille 1 (Batshuayi 90+3) Att: 10,056

Nantes 0
Montpellier 2 (Dabo 23, Skhiri 71) Att: 21,789

Rennes 0
Guingamp 3 (Diallo 63, Briand 73, Sankhare 77) Att: 29,068

Apr 22 **Nice 2** (Germain 11, Ben Arfa pen 56)
Reims 0 Att: 21,913

Apr 23 **Toulouse 2** (Tisserand 50, Ben Yedder 82)
Lyon 3 (Grenier 73, Lacazette 80, Tolisso 85) Att: 24,315

Apr 24 **GFC Ajaccio 3** (Boutaib 20, Pujol 37, Larbi pen 63)
Bastia 2 (Ngando 9, Cahuzac 77) Att: 4,104

Guingamp 1 (Sorbon 82)
Caen 1 (Rodelin 30) Att: 16,203

Marseille 1 (Thauvin 49)
Nantes 1 (N'Koulou og 31) Att: 19,898

Montpellier 4 (Roussillon 14, Saunier og 27, Martin 34, Camara 55)
Troyes 1 (Darbion 20) Att: 14,323

Rennes 1 (Sio 80)
Monaco 1 (Helder Costa 14) Att: 23,251

Saint-Etienne 2 (Roux 76, 90+2)
Lorient 0 Att: 29,550

Apr 27 **Lille 0**
Angers 0 Att: 32,001

Apr 29 **Paris Saint-Germain 4** (Maxwell 50, Ibrahimovic 54, 78, Cavani 90+1)
Rennes 0 Att: 45,341

Apr 30 **Caen 0**
Bastia 0 Att: 17,016

Lorient 0
Lille 1 (Lopes 56) Att: 11,501

Lyon 2 (Ghezzal 11, Cornet 40)
GFC Ajaccio 1 (Pujol 49) Att: 50,546

Monaco 3 (L Traore 17, Dirar 40, Bernardo Silva 76)
Guingamp 2 (Erdinc 75, Angoua 81) Att: 6,669

Nantes 1 (Thomasson 68)
Nice 0 Att: 21,442

Reims 2 (Oniangue 83, Bifouma 90+2)
Montpellier 3 (Camara 38, Congre 84, Sanson 86) Att: 19,716

Saint-Etienne 0
Toulouse 0 Att: 30,578

Troyes 2 (Nivet pen 56, Jean 69)
Bordeaux 4 (Rolan 14, 72, Mavinga og 41, Diabate 60) Att: 13,442

May 1 **Angers 0**
Marseille 1 (Batshuayi 24) Att: 16,198

May 7 **Bastia 1** (Cahuzac 43)
Angers 0 Att: 11,817

Bordeaux 3 (Malcom 12, Diabate 21, 48)
Lorient 0 Att: 23,115

GFC Ajaccio 0
Paris Saint-Germain 4 (Cavani 13, 49, 58, Ibrahimovic 90+2) Att: 3,970

Lille 0
Guingamp 0 Att: 30,298

Lyon 6 (Ghezzal 3, Lacazette 8, 35, 81, Yanga-Mbiwa 34, 59)
Monaco 1 (Ricardo Carvalho 41) Att: 56,696

Marseille 1 (Batshuayi 56)
Reims 0 Att: 20,767

Montpellier 2 (Ninga 58, Boudebouz 70)
Rennes 0 Att: 13,004

Nantes 1 (Bedoya 78)
Caen 2 (Rodelin 5, Delort pen 45) Att: 30,321

Nice 2 (Germain 86, 89)
Saint-Etienne 0 Att: 35,596

Toulouse 1 (Trejo 53)
Troyes 0 Att: 29,443

May 11 **Bordeaux 1** (Pallois 66)
Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Ibrahimovic 59) Att: 38,026

May 14 **Angers 2** (Ketkeophomphone 12, Benrahma 63)
Toulouse 3 (Ben Yedder 59, Braithwaite 78, Bodiger 80) Att: 15,130

Caen 1 (Delort pen 14)
Bordeaux 0 Att: 19,599

Guingamp 2 (Erdinc 19, Genevois og 55)
Nice 3 (Plea 2, 62, Seri 45) Att: 17,236

Lorient 1 (Moukandjo 27)
GFC Ajaccio 0 Att: 12,616

Monaco 2 (Ivan Cavaleiro 3, Fabinho pen 32)
Montpellier 0 Att: 9,318

Paris Saint-Germain 4 (Ibrahimovic 18, 89, Lucas Moura 43, Marquinhos 52)
Nantes 0 Att: 47,844

Reims 4 (Mandi 14, Diego 34, Turan 51, Kyei pen 56)
Lyon 1 (Cornet 63) Att: 17,432

Rennes 1 (Pedro Henrique 82)
Bastia 2 (Kamano 21, 52) Att: 21,429

Saint-Etienne 0
Lille 1 (Eder pen 41) Att: 39,550

Troyes 1 (Camus 10)
Marseille 1 (Fletcher 61) Att: 16,623

Pep signs off in style

Guardiola's Bayern are kings of the Bundesliga yet again

Like a dog tenaciously hanging onto a bone, Pep Guardiola's critics will never let him forget his failure to deliver the Champions League to Bayern Munich and the three consecutive semi-final defeats. But by no stretch of the imagination was 2015-16 an *annus horribilis* for Pep and his Allianz-Arena All Stars.

For virtually the entire season, Bayern's panache-laced football was a thing of beauty. And on the home front, they could do no wrong, claiming yet another domestic double and making history as the first German side to win four consecutive Bundesliga titles.

The Bayern tale of the top-flight tape says it all. Victorious in 28 of their 34 league games, they lost just twice and set a clutch of new records, including best start to a campaign (10 consecutive wins) and total goals conceded (a miserly 17).

Guardiola's Bayern simply had too many weapons for their Bundesliga opponents to muzzle. Philipp Lahm's intelligence as a raiding right-back; Xabi Alonso's cultured deep-lying playmaking; Arturo Vidal driving forward in central midfield; the wing-play of new arrivals, Douglas Costa and Kingsley Coman: and, of course, the outstanding finishing of Robert Lewandowski and Thomas Muller, who were responsible for a half-century of goals between them.

Here was the culmination of Guardiola's complete redefinition of the Bayern footballing lexicon. The triumph of possession, pressing, fluidity and the never-ending quest for a wider range of tactical formulae.

Able to operate in any number of systems at the drop of a hat, the German champions had flexibility oozing from every pore. And when it comes to matchday problem-solving, no one in Europe is more responsive than Guardiola, who leaves Bayern and the Bundesliga for Manchester City and the Premier League this summer.

Always looking for that competitive edge, he improved most of his players too. German international centre-back Jerome Boateng – whose absence through injury in the second-half of the season was so damaging to the club's European aspirations – is far stronger on the ball than he was before Guardiola's arrival, while Austria's David Alaba has developed into a world-class all-rounder at left-back, central defender, or as a holding or box-to-box midfielder.

> "We've a lot to thank Pep for. He made players better, even those already thought of as world class"
> **Bayern chairman, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge**

"We've a lot to thank Pep for," said chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge. "He made players better, even those already thought of as world class. Strategically and tactically he took us to the highest level. The football was fantastic and successful. Some never made the effort to try to understand a man who was never satisfied with being average, who only focused on the optimum.

"Pep will only be properly judged when he's left here."

In a way, Guardiola also played an indirect part in the return to rude health of Borussia Dortmund, who fresh from flirting with relegation the previous season, stormed to the Bundesliga runners-up spot under self-confessed ▸

Fine start...Dortmund coach Thomas Tuchel with Matthias Ginter

THE BREAKDOWN

TEAM OF THE SEASON

THE CUP FINAL
After 120 minutes of intense ebb and flow but no goals, Bayern and Dortmund had to go down the tie-break route, with the former prevailing 4-3 on penalties.

RELEGATED & PROMOTED
Rock-bottom Hanover lost 23 of their 34 games, while a springtime slump did for Stuttgart, who had that sinking feeling for the first time in 41 years. In the second tier frugal Freiburg finished ahead of big-spending RB Leipzig.

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS
Bayern, Dortmund and Leverkusen go directly to the Champions League group stage, while Gladbach will compete in the play-off round. Schalke, Mainz and Hertha Berlin will do the honours in the Europa League.

African first...Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Gabon and Dortmund striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang finished just ahead of Bayern's Robert Lewandowski in a vote by the German players' union. He is the first African to win their award since its inception in 1998.

COACH OF THE SEASON
Everyone expected Darmstadt to go straight down, but thanks to the clever team-building and motivational work of former East German defender Dirk Schuster, survival was achieved relatively comfortably.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Dortmund bought Julian Weigl for a song last summer from second-tier 1860 Munich and the 20-year-old midfield holder enjoyed a dream debut season among the elite, impressing with his composure and passing ability.

Cheers...Bayern's David Alaba gives coach Pep Guardiola a refreshing send-off

Pep disciple, Thomas Tuchel.

As the successor to iconic Jurgen Klopp, ex-Mainz boss Tuchel could not have faced a more onerous challenge. But what a great fist he has made of it, re-establishing them as Bayern's number one challenger, sealing a return to the Champions League with style and swagger – so much so they even scored more than Bayern in the Bundesliga.

One of Tuchel's most noteworthy achievements was the apparent ease with which he overhauled the Dortmund playing style, taking the full-throttle, heavy metal "Kloppo" philosophy, adding some tweaks and principles of his own, and finally rolling out a new creation: part dynamism and flair; part structure and care in possession.

That the new template was bedded down in just a few weeks in pre-season, speaks volumes for Tuchel's ability as coach, teacher and communicator, and his players certainly seem to approve of the revamp. Not least Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Armenian attacking midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan.

"This is a team which no longer looks to play it forward at any price," concluded former Dortmund coach Ottmar Hitzfeld. "They have a set of other options and that impresses me. Tuchel is the perfect mix of Pep Guardiola and Jurgen Klopp."

And there were plenty of other coaches making there mark last term.

At Bundesliga new boys Darmstadt and Ingolstadt, respective coaches Dirk Schuster and Ralph Hasenhuttl offered a workshop in how to plot a survival course on a shoestring, while 28-year-old Julian Nagelsmann did a fine job of keeping Hoffenheim afloat after taking over in February from Huub Stevens.

Martin Schmidt at Mainz and Hertha Berlin's Pal Dardai also produced teams worth far more than the sum of their parts and deservedly earned Europa League tickets.

Against all the odds, Eintracht Frankfurt boss Niko Kovac managed to put out the relegation flames, winning three of the last four league games, then seeing off second-tier Nuremberg in a play-off, while Andre Schubert turned miracle worker at Gladbach, transforming a winless, pointless team in late September into Champions League material by the season's end.

Meanwhile, it was a campaign of extremes for top-flight works teams. Inspired by Mexican hot-shot Javier Hernandez, Bayer Leverkusen were one of the form teams of the spring championship, eventually scooping third place and a Champions League pass. No such luck, though, for the VW-backed Wolfsburg who, after coming second 12 months earlier, suffered a mid-table breakdown and were bereft of attacking-third star quality in the wake of Kevin De Bruyne's departure to Manchester City.

Sadly for some of Germany biggest clubs, prestige and popularity offered precious little in the way of sporting rewards. Schalke's chronic inconsistency put paid to their hopes of Champions League qualification and Werder Bremen only escaped the drop by the skin of their teeth. Worst of all, Stuttgart were relegated with rock bottom Hanover and must regroup in the second tier.

Out of the elite for the first time since 1977, Stuttgart are in "ground zero" territory. Club president Bernd Wahler promptly stepped aside, and both general manager Robin Dutt and coach Jurgen Kramny have gone, the latter to be replaced by ex-Gladbach and Hertha Berlin boss Jos Luhukay.

Just nine years ago, Stuttgart were Bundesliga champions. That's what happens when you stand still. The others catch up. WS

Over...Stuttgart drop into the second tier

Hot shot...Javier Hernandez

BUNDESLIGA: 2015-16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern	34	28	4	2	80	17	88
B Dortmund	34	24	6	4	82	34	78
B Leverkusen	34	18	6	10	56	40	60
M'gladbach	34	17	4	13	67	50	55
Schalke	34	15	7	12	51	49	52
Mainz	34	14	8	12	46	42	50
Hertha Berlin	34	14	8	12	42	42	50
Wolfsburg	34	12	9	13	47	49	45
Cologne	34	10	13	11	38	42	43
Hamburg	34	11	8	15	40	46	41
Ingolstadt	34	10	10	14	33	42	40
Augsburg	34	9	11	14	42	52	38
W Bremen	34	10	8	16	50	65	38
Darmstadt	34	9	11	14	38	53	38
Hoffenheim	34	9	10	15	39	54	37
E Frankfurt	34	9	9	16	34	52	36
Stuttgart	34	9	6	19	50	75	33
Hanover	34	7	4	23	31	62	25

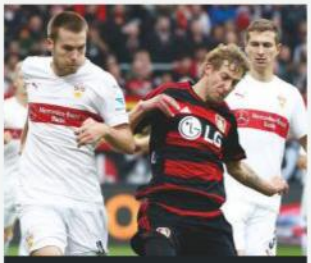
SIX KEY MATCHES

SEP 22, 2015
Trailing 1-0 at half-time, Bayern spectacularly turn the tables and beat Wolfsburg 5-1, with substitute Robert Lewandowski netting a record-breaking five goals in nine minutes.

Rapid...Robert Lewandowski

OCT 4, 2015
Bayern Munich beat Borussia Dortmund 5-1 and after his first taste of *Der Klassiker* action, losing coach Thomas Tuchel admits his side were totally outclassed.

OCT 24 2015
Two clean sheets at the break followed by a goal blitz as Leverkusen beat Stuttgart 4-3. Two-nil and 3-1 up, Stuttgart somehow contrive to throw it away.


Blitz...Leverkusen's Stefan Kiessling (right)

NOV 8 2015
Dortmund confirm their excellent start to the season with 3-2 victory over Schalke in the Ruhr derby.

DEC 5 2015
Unbeaten in their first 14 games of the season, Bayern finally bite the dust, beaten 3-1 by Borussia M'gladbach .

MAY 14 2016:
Bremen celebrate the "Great Escape" on the last day of the season. A late winner from centre-back Papy Djilobodji does the trick as they beat Eintracht Frankfurt 1-0.

Saviour...Papy Djilobodji (in green)

Aug 14, 2015 **Bayern Munich 5** (Benatia 27, Lewandowski 53, Muller 69, 73, Douglas Costa 87)
Hamburg 0 Att: 75,000

Aug 15 **Augsburg 0**
Hertha Berlin 1 (Kalou pen 48)
Att: 28,130

Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Kiessling 45, Brandt 71)
Hoffenheim 1 (Zuber 5) Att: 27,125

Borussia Dortmund 4 (Reus 15, Aubameyang 21, Mkhitaryan 33, 50)
Monchengladbach 0 Att: 81,359

Darmstadt 2 (Heller 31, 54)
Hanover 2 (Benschop 48, Sulu og 62)
Att: 17,000

Mainz 0
Ingolstadt 1 (Hinterseer 66) Att: 27,152

Werder Bremen 0
Schalke 3 (Gebre Selassie og 34, Choupo-Moting 68, Huntelaar 85)
Att: 42,100

Aug 16 **Stuttgart 1** (Didavi pen 79)
Cologne 3 (Modeste pen 75, Zoller 77, Osako 90+2) Att: 59,500

Wolfsburg 2 (Perisic 13, Dost 17)
Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Reinartz 19)
Att: 29,126

Aug 21 **Hertha Berlin 1** (Stocker 6)
Werder Bremen 1 (Ujah 26)
Att: 56,376

Aug 22 **Cologne 1** (Zoller 30)
Wolfsburg 1 (Bendtner 83) Att: 46,000

Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Russ 86)
Augsburg 1 (Caiuby 24) Att: 45,000

Aug 22...Hamburg v Stuttgart

Hamburg 3 (Ilicevic 34, Lasogga 84, Djourou 89)
Stuttgart 2 (Ginczek 24, 42)
Att: 54,618

Hanover 0
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Calhanoglu 18)
Att: 39,100

Hoffenheim 1 (Volland 1)
Bayern Munich 2 (Muller 41, Lewandowski 90) Att: 30,150

Schalke 1 (Draxler 47)
Darmstadt 1 (Rausch 9) Att: 61,565

Aug 23 **Ingolstadt 0**
Borussia Dortmund 4 (Ginter 55, Reus pen 60, Kagawa 84, Aubameyang 90+1) Att: 15,000

Monchengladbach 1 (Herrmann 54)
Mainz 2 (Jairo 42, Clemens 79)
Att: 50,172

Aug 28 **Wolfsburg 3** (Dost 17, R Rodriguez pen 59, Klose 61)
Schalke 0 Att: 30,000

Aug 29 **Augsburg 0**
Ingolstadt 1 (Leckie 63) Att: 30,003

Bayern Munich 3 (Muller 26, pen 60, Robben pen 71)
Bayer Leverkusen 0 Att: 75,000

Cologne 2 (Hosiner 76, Modeste pen 81)
Hamburg 1 (Holtby 47) Att: 50,000

Darmstadt 0
Hoffenheim 0 Att: 17,000

Mainz 3 (Muto 15, 29, Malli 47)
Hanover 0 Att: 26,872

Stuttgart 1 (Didavi 30)
Eintracht Frankfurt 4 (Hlousek og 11, Castaignos 42, 87, Seferovic pen 69)
Att: 49,327

Aug 30 **Borussia Dortmund 3** (Hummels 27, Aubameyang 51, Ramos 90+3)
Hertha Berlin 1 (Kalou 78) Att: 80,500

Werder Bremen 2 (Johannsson pen 39, Vestergaard 53)
Monchengladbach 1 (Stindl 45)
Att: 42,100

Sep 11 **Monchengladbach 0**
Hamburg 3 (Lasogga 11, 44, N Muller 52) Att: 54,010

Sep 12 **Bayer Leverkusen 0**
Darmstadt 1 (Sulu 8) Att: 29,396

Bayern Munich 2 (Lewandowski 77, Muller pen 90)
Augsburg 1 (Esswein 43) Att: 75,000

Eintracht Frankfurt 6 (Meier 4, 23, 87, Castaignos 15, 30, Seferovic 73)
Cologne 2 (Modeste 28, Heintz 81)
Att: 51,500

Hanover 2 (Sobiech 18, 53)
Borussia Dortmund 4 (Aubameyang pen 35, pen 85, Mkhitaryan 44, Felipe og 67) Att: 49,000

Hertha Berlin 2 (Haraguchi 14, Lustenberger 45+3)
Stuttgart 1 (Sunjic 36) Att: 45,994

Ingolstadt 0
Wolfsburg 0 Att: 14,095

Sep 13 **Hoffenheim 1** (Vargas 49)
Werder Bremen 3 (Junuzovic 45, 90+3, Ujah 90+2) Att: 28,312

Schalke 2 (Matip 37, Huntelaar 61)
Mainz 1 (Malli 42) Att: 60,083

Sep 18 **Mainz 3** (Malli 18, 61, 68)
Hoffenheim 1 (Schmid 13) Att: 28,973

Sep 19 **Cologne 1** (Modeste 64)
Monchengladbach 0 Att: 47,800

Darmstadt 0
Bayern Munich 3 (Vidal 20, Coman 62, Rode 63) Att: 17,000

Hamburg 0
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 55,322

Werder Bremen 0
Ingolstadt 1 (Hartmann pen 90+3)
Att: 40,500

Wolfsburg 2 (Dost 76, pen 89)
Hertha Berlin 0 Att: 30,000

Sep 20 **Augsburg 2** (Esswein 29, Verhaegh pen 32)
Hanover 0 Att: 28,511

Borussia Dortmund 3 (Hofmann 19, Kagawa 58, Aubameyang pen 74)
Bayer Leverkusen 0 Att: 81,359

Stuttgart 0
Schalke 1 (Sane 53) Att: 48,510

Sep 22 **Bayern Munich 5** (Lewandowski 51, 52, 55, 57, 60)
Wolfsburg 1 (Caligiuri 26) Att: 75,000

Darmstadt 2 (Wagner pen 31, 84)
Werder Bremen 1 (Johannsson 19)
Att: 17,000

Hertha Berlin 2 (Ibisevic 43, 90+4)
Cologne 0 Att: 40,181

Ingolstadt 0
Hamburg 1 (Gregoritsch 87)
Att: 15,000

Sep 23 **Bayer Leverkusen 1** (Hernandez 69)
Mainz 0 Att: 24,805

Oct 31...Wolfsburg v Bayer Leverkusen

Hanover 1 (Karaman 14)
Stuttgart 3 (Gentner 16, Werner 18, Maxim 90+1) Att: 36,800

Hoffenheim 1 (Rudy 42)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Aubameyang 55) Att: 29,700

Monchengladbach 4 (Johnson 5, Xhaka 17, Stindl 19, Dahoud 21)
Augsburg 2 (Verhaegh pen 52, pen 75)
Att: 40,511

Schalke 2 (Matip 76, Sane 90+1)
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 60,104

Sep 25 **Cologne 1** (Modeste 10)
Ingolstadt 1 (Matip 21) Att: 47,800

Sep 26 **Augsburg 1** (Koo 38)
Hoffenheim 3 (Volland 10, pen 68, Schmid 73) Att: 27,112

Hamburg 0
Schalke 1 (Sane 60) Att: 53,192

Mainz 0
Bayern Munich 3 (Lewandowski 51, 63, Coman 68) Att: 34,000

Stuttgart 1 (Ginczek pen 40)
Monchengladbach 3 (Xhaka 17, Gentner og 20, Raffael 90) Att: 51,020

Werder Bremen 0
Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Mehmedi 31, Brandt 58, Kampl 65) Att: 40,005

Wolfsburg 1 (Dost 40)
Hanover 1 (Kiyotake 57) Att: 29,236

Sep 27 **Borussia Dortmund 2** (Aubameyang 63, 71)
Darmstadt 2 (Heller 17, Sulu 90)
Att: 81,359

Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Meier 22)
Hertha Berlin 1 (Darida 82)
Att: 46,000

Oct 2 **Darmstadt 2** (Heller 27, Sailer 57)
Mainz 3 (Bell 15, Malli 24, De Blasis 64)
Att: 17,000

Oct 3 **Hanover 1** (Sane 55)
Werder Bremen 0 Att: 49,000

Hertha Berlin 3 (Kalou 17, Ibisevic 77, 79)
Hamburg 0 Att: 65,427

Hoffenheim 2 (Volland pen 33, 77)
Stuttgart 2 (Kliment 64, Werner 90)
Att: 30,150

Ingolstadt 2 (Gross 78, Lex 84)
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 15,000

Monchengladbach 2 (Nordtveit 76, Traore 79)
Wolfsburg 0 Att: 52,581

Oct 4 **Bayer Leverkusen 1** (Bellarabi 39)
Augsburg 1 (Leno og 12) Att: 28,475

Bayern Munich 5 (Muller 26, pen 35, Lewandowski 46, 58, Gotze 66)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Aubameyang 37) Att: 75,000

Schalke 0
Cologne 3 (Modeste 45, Gerhardt 79, Zoller 84) Att: 61,723

Oct 16 **Mainz 0**
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Reus 18, Mkhitaryan 82) Att: 34,000

Oct 17 **Augsburg 0**
Darmstadt 2 (Wagner 7, Niemeyer 29)
Att: 30,009

Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Meier pen 29)
Monchengladbach 5 (Raffael 16, 57, Dahoud 51, Hahn pen 82, 90)
Att: 50,700

Hamburg 0
Bayer Leverkusen 0 Att: 54,957

Schalke 2 (Howedes 27, Meyer 90+2)
Hertha Berlin 1 (Kalou 73) Att: 61,336

Werder Bremen 0
Bayern Munich 1 (Muller 23)
Att: 42,100

Wolfsburg 4 (Kruse 1, 62, 83, Dost 7)
Hoffenheim 2 (Toljan 30, Schmid 54)
Att: 28,148

Oct 18 **Cologne 0**
Hanover 1 (Andreasen 38) Att: 48,700

Stuttgart 1 (Didavi 59)
Ingolstadt 0 Att: 45,700

Oct 23 **Hoffenheim 0**
Hamburg 1 (Lasogga 88) Att: 30,000

Oct 24 **Bayer Leverkusen 4** (Bellarabi 57, Boenisch 70, Hernandez 71, Mehmedi 89)
Stuttgart 3 (Harnik 50, Didavi 54, Rupp 60) Att: 30,210

Bayern Munich 4 (Robben 35, Vidal 40, Lewandowski 62, Muller pen 77)
Cologne 0 Att: 75,000

Darmstadt 0
Wolfsburg 1 (Caligiuri 78) Att: 15,800

Hanover 1 (Klaus 51)
Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Stendera 57, 65)
Att: 44,200

Ingolstadt 0
Hertha Berlin 1 (Weiser 11) Att: 15,000

Mainz 1 (Muto 90)
Werder Bremen 3 (Ujah 39, 44, Bartels 45+3) Att: 30,837

Oct 25 **Borussia Dortmund 5** (Aubameyang 18, 85, 90+1, Reus 21, 33)
Augsburg 1 (Bobadilla 49) Att: 81,359

Monchengladbach 3 (Stindl 32, Raffael 70, Korb 84)
Schalke 1 (Christensen og 44)
Att: 54,010

Oct 30 **Eintracht Frankfurt 0**
Bayern Munich 0 Att: 51,500

Oct 31 **Augsburg 3** (Verhaegh pen 42, Koo 50, Bobadilla 81)
Mainz 3 (Muto 19, 30, 90+3)
Att: 27,200

Cologne 0
Hoffenheim 0 Att: 48,000

Hertha Berlin 1 (Baumjohann pen 82)
Monchengladbach 4 (Wendt 26, Raffael 28, Xhaka pen 55, Nordtveit 90+1) Att: 58,566

Schalke 1 (Sane 77)
Ingolstadt 1 (Levels 39) Att: 60,144

Werder Bremen 1 (Ujah 32)
Borussia Dortmund 3 (Reus 9, 72, Mkhitaryan 44) Att: 42,100

Wolfsburg 2 (Bendtner 34, Draxler 77)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Hernandez 40)
Att: 28,766

Nov 1 **Hamburg 1** (Gregoritsch 6)
Hanover 2 (Kiyotake pen 59, Sane 67)
Att: 54,607

Stuttgart 2 (Garics og 68, Werner 90+4)
Darmstadt 0 Att: 55,200

Nov 6 **Hanover 1** (Kiyotake pen 70)
Hertha Berlin 3 (Kalou 33, 60, pen 87)
Att: 40,200

Nov 7 **Bayer Leverkusen 1** (Hernandez 33)
Cologne 2 (Maroh 17, 72) Att: 30,210

Bayern Munich 4 (Robben 11, Douglas Costa 18, Lewandowski 37, Muller 40)
Stuttgart 0 Att: 75,000

Darmstadt 1 (Heller 47)
Hamburg 1 (Lasogga pen 29)
Att: 17,000

Hoffenheim 0
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 30,150

Mainz 2 (De Blasis 32, Malli 75)
Wolfsburg 0 Att: 26,331

Monchengladbach 0
Ingolstadt 0 Att: 52,331

Nov 8 **Augsburg 1** (Verhaegh pen 90+1)
Werder Bremen 2 (Pizarro 58, Bartels 69) Att: 28,122

Borussia Dortmund 3 (Kagawa 30, Ginter 43, Aubameyang 47)
Schalke 2 (Huntelaar 33, 71)
Att: 79,956

Nov 20 **Hamburg 3** (Lasogga pen 19, Holtby 41, Hummels og 55)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Aubameyang 86) Att: 57,000

Nov 21 **Cologne 0**
Mainz 0 Att: 46,700

Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Medojevic 45)
Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Hernandez 23, 39, Calhanoglu 72) Att: 47,500

Monchengladbach 2 (Traore 34, Raffael 84)
Hanover 1 (Sobiech 65) Att: 52,214

Schalke 1 (Meyer 17)
Bayern Munich 3 (Goretzka og 9, Javi

Martinez 69, Muller 90+2) Att: 62,271

Stuttgart 0
Augsburg 4 (Esswein 11, Baumgartl og 17, Callsen-Bracker 36, Koo 54)
Att: 54,925

Wolfsburg 6 (Galvez og 11, Kruse 44, 87, Vieirinha 56, Guilavogui 67, Dost 78)
Werder Bremen 0 Att: 30,000

Nov 22 **Hertha Berlin 1** (Polanski og 30)
Hoffenheim 0 Att: 37,045

Ingolstadt 3 (Bauer 58, Hartmann pen 60, 88)
Darmstadt 1 (Sulu 9) Att: 14,551

Nov 27 **Darmstadt 0**
Cologne 0 Att: 17,000

Nov 28 **Bayern Munich 2** (Muller 34, Coman 41)
Hertha Berlin 0 Att: 75,000

Hanover 4 (Marcelo 5, Andreasen 11, Karaman 24, Bech 85)
Ingolstadt 0 Att: 35,000

Hoffenheim 3 (Zuber 11, Polanski 35, Amiri 47)
Monchengladbach 3 (Johnson 5, 87, Drmic 56) Att: 30,150

Mainz 2 (Muto 5, Malli 42)
Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Seferovic 61)
Att: 33,098

Werder Bremen 1 (Ujah 62)
Hamburg 3 (Ilicevic 3, Gregoritsch 26, N Muller 68) Att: 42,100

Nov 29 **Augsburg 0**
Wolfsburg 0 Att: 27,081

Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Riether og 85)
Schalke 1 (Choupo-Moting 50)
Att: 30,210

Borussia Dortmund 4 (Castro 3, Aubameyang 19, 90+1, Niedermeier og 65)
Stuttgart 1 (Didavi 40) Att: 81,359

Dec 4 **Schalke 3** (Geis pen 51, Huntelaar 73, Di Santo 82)
Hanover 1 (Saint-Maximin 81)
Att: 61,229

Dec 5 **Cologne 0**
Augsburg 1 (Bobadilla 64) Att: 45,500

Hamburg 1 (Djourou 90)
Mainz 3 (Jairo 16, 51, Clemens 76)
Att: 51,698

Hertha Berlin 2 (Darida 7, Brooks 60)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Hernandez 29)
Att: 41,819

Ingolstadt 1 (Roger 66)
Hoffenheim 1 (Uth 90+6) Att: 14,255

Monchengladbach 3 (Wendt 54, Stindl 66, Johnson 68)
Bayern Munich 1 (Ribery 81)
Att: 54,010

Wolfsburg 1 (R Rodriguez pen 90+1)
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Reus 32, Kagawa 90+3) Att: 30,000

Dec 6 **Eintracht Frankfurt 0**
Darmstadt 1 (Sulu 30) Att: 51,500

Stuttgart 1 (Rupp 33)
Werder Bremen 1 (Ujah 71)
Att: 46,590

Dec 11 **Mainz 0**
Stuttgart 0 Att: 29,104

Dec 12 **Bayer Leverkusen 5** (Kiessling 30, 66, Hernandez 63, 75, 76)
Monchengladbach 0 Att: 30,210

Bayern Munich 2 (Lewandowski 65, Lahm 75)
Ingolstadt 0 Att: 75,000

Darmstadt 0
Hertha Berlin 4 (Ibisevic 12, 50, Plattenhardt 26, Kalou 77) Att: 17,000

Hoffenheim 1 (Schmid 30)
Hanover 0 Att: 25,531

Werder Bremen 1 (Vestergaard 4)
Cologne 1 (Svento 79) Att: 40,727

Wolfsburg 1 (Arnold 78)
Hamburg 1 (N Muller 21) Att: 30,000

Dec 13 **Augsburg 2** (Hong 34, Caiuby 90+2)
Schalke 1 (Kolasinac 70) Att: 28,410

Borussia Dortmund 4 (Mkhitaryan 24, Aubameyang 57, Hummels 61, Ramos 86)
Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Meier 7)
Att: 81,359

Dec 18 **Schalke 1** (Choupo-Moting 28)
Hoffenheim 0 Att: 60,749

Dec 19 **Cologne 2** (Zoller 83, Modeste 90)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Papastathopoulos 18) Att: 50,000

Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Meier 31, Aigner 48)
Werder Bremen 1 (Pizarro 29)
Att: 46,000

Hamburg 0
Augsburg 1 (Moravek 76) Att: 49,726

Hanover 0
Bayern Munich 1 (Muller pen 40)
Att: 49,000

Ingolstadt 0
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Hernandez 73)
Att: 15,000

Stuttgart 3 (Didavi 22, 47, Kostic 31)
Wolfsburg 1 (Arnold 14) Att: 47,343

Dec 20 **Hertha Berlin 2** (Darida 34, Kalou 54)
Mainz 0 Att: 39,835

Monchengladbach 3 (Stindl 44, Nordtveit 51, Wendt 86)
Darmstadt 2 (Heller 28, Wagner 67)
Att: 53,610

Jan 22, 2016 **Hamburg 1** (Hunt 53)
Bayern Munich 2 (Lewandowski pen 37, 61) Att: 57,000

Jan 23 **Cologne 1** (Modeste pen 19)
Stuttgart 3 (Didavi 36, Werner 51, Gentner 83) Att: 50,000

Hanover 1 (Hugo Almeida 10)
Darmstadt 2 (Wagner 31, 47)
Att: 35,600

Hertha Berlin 0
Augsburg 0 Att: 35,196

Hoffenheim 1 (Hamad 40)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Toprak 75)
Att: 24,140

Ingolstadt 1 (Hartmann pen 41)
Mainz 0 Att: 13,500

Monchengladbach 1 (Raffael 58)
Borussia Dortmund 3 (Reus 41, Mkhitaryan 51, Gundogan 75)
Att: 54,010

Jan 24 **Eintracht Frankfurt 3** (Meier 66, 73, 90+3)
Wolfsburg 2 (Dante 25, Schurrle 79)
Att: 35,000

Schalke 1 (Matip 4)
Werder Bremen 3 (Fritz 43, Pizarro 53, Ujah 89) Att: 62,271

Jan 29 **Mainz 1** (Clemens 21)
Monchengladbach 0 Att: 32,015

Jan 30 **Augsburg 0**
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 28,653

Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Kiessling 44, Hernandez pen 63, 87)
Hanover 0 Att: 28,790

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Aubameyang 77, 86)
Ingolstadt 0 Att: 81,359

Darmstadt 0
Schalke 2 (Meyer 43, Sane 53)
Att: 17,000

Stuttgart 2 (Hunt og 66, Kravets 88)
Hamburg 1 (Rudnevs 75) Att: 46,600

Werder Bremen 3 (Bartels 67, Pizarro pen 75, 77)
Hertha Berlin 3 (Darida 29, Plattenhardt 42, Kalou 71) Att: 40,141

Jan 31 **Bayern Munich 2** (Lewandowski 32, 64)
Hoffenheim 0 Att: 75,000

Wolfsburg 1 (Draxler 67)
Cologne 1 (Modeste 75) Att: 29,156

Feb 5 **Monchengladbach 5** (Stindl 12, Christensen 31, 50, Raffael pen 70, Nordtveit 88)
Werder Bremen 1 (Pizarro pen 56)
Att: 51,569

Feb 6 **Bayer Leverkusen 0**

Feb 14...Augsburg v Bayern

Bayern Munich 0 Att: 30,210

Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Meier 52, Huszti 90)
Stuttgart 4 (Gentner 27, Didavi 45+1, Niedermeier 65, Kostic pen 76)
Att: 42,000

Hanover 0
Mainz 1 (Jairo 24) Att: 35,596

Hertha Berlin 0
Borussia Dortmund 0 Att: 74,244

Ingolstadt 2 (Matip 59, Hartmann pen 85)
Augsburg 1 (Stafylidis 14) Att: 15,356

Schalke 3 (Huntelaar 24, Geis 35, Schopf 87)
Wolfsburg 0 Att: 61,483

Feb 7 **Hamburg 1** (N Muller 47)
Cologne 1 (Zoller 41) Att: 51,999

Hoffenheim 0
Darmstadt 2 (Sulu 33, Rajkovic 85)
Att: 26,231

Feb 12 **Mainz 2** (Bussmann 33, Baumgartlinger 79)
Schalke 1 (Belhanda 46) Att: 32,107

Feb 13 **Borussia Dortmund 1** (Mkhitaryan 57)
Hanover 0 Att: 80,900

Cologne 3 (Gerhardt 29, Heintz 57, Modeste 72)
Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Meier 24)
Att: 49,200

Jan 30...Werder Bremen v Hertha Berlin

Darmstadt 1 (Wagner 28)
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Sulu og 62, Brandt 77) Att: 16,800

Stuttgart 2 (Serey Die 51, Kostic 84)
Hertha Berlin 0 Att: 45,465

Werder Bremen 1 (Djilobodji 13)
Hoffenheim 1 (Kramaric 10) Att: 38,454

Wolfsburg 2 (Draxler 29, Knoche 39)
Ingolstadt 0 Att: 26,884

Feb 14 **Augsburg 1** (Bobadilla 86)
Bayern Munich 3 (Lewandowski 15, 62, Muller 78) Att: 30,660

Hamburg 3 (Hinteregger og 38, Rudnevs 41, Ilicevic 80)
Monchengladbach 2 (Johnson 14, Raffael 88) Att: 56,706

Feb 19 **Eintracht Frankfurt 0**
Hamburg 0 Att: 47,200

Feb 20 **Bayern Munich 3** (Muller 49, 71, Lewandowski 84)
Darmstadt 1 (Wagner 26) Att: 75,000

Hertha Berlin 1 (Kalou 60)
Wolfsburg 1 (Schafer 53) Att: 40,126

Hoffenheim 3 (Amiri 13, Uth 68, 76)
Mainz 2 (Cordoba 11, Jairo 78)
Att: 24,019

Ingolstadt 2 (Hubner 12, Hinterseer pen 90)
Werder Bremen 0 Att: 15,000

Monchengladbach 1 (Dahoud 9)
Cologne 0 Att: 52,226

Feb 21 **Bayer Leverkusen 0**
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Aubameyang 64) Att: 30,210

Hanover 0
Augsburg 1 (Koo 14) Att: 32,400

Schalke 1 (Belhanda 14)
Stuttgart 1 (Harnik 74) Att: 61,262

Feb 26 **Cologne 0**
Hertha Berlin 1 (Ibisevic 43)
Att: 48,900

Feb 27 **Hamburg 1** (Drmic 7)
Ingolstadt 1 (Hinterseer 61)
Att: 50,675

Stuttgart 1 (Werner 18)
Hanover 2 (Schulz 32, 84) Att: 54,356

Werder Bremen 2 (Ujah 33, Pizarro 89)
Darmstadt 2 (Wagner pen 44, Sulu 82)
Att: 40,396

Wolfsburg 0
Bayern Munich 2 (Coman 66, Lewandowski 74) Att: 30,000

Feb 28 **Augsburg 2** (Finnbogason 50, Caiuby 53)
Monchengladbach 2 (Raffael 33, Johnson 55) Att: 29,665

Borussia Dortmund 3 (Mkhitaryan 80, Ramos 85, Aubameyang 90+2)
Hoffenheim 1 (Rudy 25) Att: 81,359

Eintracht Frankfurt 0
Schalke 0 Att: 43,500

Mainz 3 (Malli 14, pen 58, Cordoba 32)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Hernandez 65)
Att: 26,557

Mar 1 **Hanover 0**
Wolfsburg 4 (Schurrle 36, 59, 62, Draxler 69) Att: 34,500

Ingolstadt 1 (Hinterseer 36)
Cologne 1 (Modeste 72) Att: 14,503

Mar 2 **Bayer Leverkusen 1** (Djilobodji og 69)
Werder Bremen 4 (Bartels 5, Pizarro 55, pen 65, 83) Att: 25,506

Bayern Munich 1 (Robben 64)
Mainz 2 (Jairo 26, Cordoba 86)
Att: 75,000

Darmstadt 0
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Ramos 38,

Durm 53) Att: 17,000

Hertha Berlin 2 (Weiser 63, Kalou 78)
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 36,608

Hoffenheim 2 (Volland 25, Uth 81)
Augsburg 1 (Verhaegh pen 40)
Att: 21,092

Monchengladbach 4 (Hazard 16, Raffael 60, Herrmann 68, Grosskreutz og 90+1)
Stuttgart 0 Att: 43,627

Schalke 3 (Meyer 37, Huntelaar 66, Schopf 77)
Hamburg 2 (N Muller 4, Kacar 90+2)
Att: 60,856

Mar 5 **Augsburg 3** (Koo 5, 44, 57)
Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Bellarabi 60, Verhaegh og 80, Calhanoglu pen 90+3)
Att: 27,610

Borussia Dortmund 0
Bayern Munich 0 Att: 81,359

Cologne 1 (Bittencourt 33)
Schalke 3 (Huntelaar pen 2, Meyer 24, Di Santo 76) Att: 49,300

Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Russ 69)
Ingolstadt 1 (Hartmann pen 8)
Att: 40,000

Stuttgart 5 (Niedermeier 6, 51, Rupp 42, Kostic 78, Werner 83)
Hoffenheim 1 (Kramaric 73)
Att: 44,647

Werder Bremen 4 (Bartels 18, Pizarro 26, Gebre Selassie 56, Junuzovic 67)
Hanover 1 (Karaman 45) Att: 42,100

Wolfsburg 2 (Draxler 15, Kruse 17)
Monchengladbach 1 (Raffael 23)
Att: 29,224

Mar 6 **Hamburg 2** (N Muller 58, 75)
Hertha Berlin 0 Att: 46,136

Mainz 0
Darmstadt 0 Att: 34,000

Mar 11 **Hertha Berlin 2** (Ibisevic 42, Stark 65)
Schalke 0 Att: 51,424

Mar 12 **Bayern Munich 5** (Thiago 9, 90, Muller 31, 66, Lewandowski 86)
Werder Bremen 0 Att: 75,000

Darmstadt 2 (Vrancic 12, Wagner 40)
Augsburg 2 (Feulner 63, Finnbogason pen 90) Att: 16,000

Hanover 0
Cologne 2 (Bittencourt 43, 61)
Att: 40,600

Hoffenheim 1 (Kramaric 3)
Wolfsburg 0 Att: 25,231

Ingolstadt 3 (Hartmann 4, Leckie 56, Lezcano 61)
Stuttgart 3 (Kostic 9, Rupp 79, Didavi pen 84) Att: 15,107

Monchengladbach 3 (Stindl 36, Raffael 53, Dahoud 79)
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 54,010

Mar 13 **Bayer Leverkusen 1** (Ekdal og 18)
Hamburg 0 Att: 30,210
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Reus 30, Kagawa 73)

Mainz 0 Att: 81,000

Mar 18 **Schalke 2** (Hinteregger og 59, Goretzka 83)
Monchengladbach 1 (Christensen 79)
Att: 62,271

Mar 19 **Cologne 0**
Bayern Munich 1 (Lewandowski 10)
Att: 49,600

Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Ben-Hatira 33)
Hanover 0 Att: 43,300

Hamburg 1 (Hunt pen 30)
Hoffenheim 3 (Kramaric pen 20, Volland 23, Vargas 67) Att: 48,263

Hertha Berlin 2 (Haraguchi 54, Kalou 69)
Ingolstadt 1 (Hinterseer 75)
Att: 40,385

Werder Bremen 1 (Pizarro pen 45+3)
Mainz 1 (Baumgartlinger 38)
Att: 38,416

Wolfsburg 1 (Schurrle 90+3)
Darmstadt 1 (Wagner 82) Att: 26,422

Mar 20 **Augsburg 1** (Finnbogason 16)
Borussia Dortmund 3 (Mkhitaryan 45, Castro 69, Ramos 75) Att: 30,660

Stuttgart 0
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Brandt 11, Bellarabi 49) Att: 54,522

Apr 1 **Bayer Leverkusen 3** (Brandt 27, Hernandez 73, Yurchenko 87)
Wolfsburg 0 Att: 29,239

Apr 2 **Bayern Munich 1** (Ribery 20)
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 75,000

Borussia Dortmund 3 (Aubameyang 53, Kagawa 77, Ramos 82)
Werder Bremen 2 (Galvez 69, Junuzovic 75) Att: 81,359

Darmstadt 2 (Wagner 26, Niemeyer 52)
Stuttgart 2 (Gentner 45, Rupp 45+3)
Att: 17,000

Hanover 0
Hamburg 3 (Cleber 61, Ilicevic 73, N Muller 75) Att: 49,000

Ingolstadt 3 (Hartmann pen 29, Hinterseer 45+2, Lezcano 65)
Schalke 0 Att: 15,200

Mainz 4 (Clemens 13, 76, De Blasis 24, 53)
Augsburg 2 (Caiuby 9, Koo 40)
Att: 31,780

Apr 3 **Hoffenheim 1** (Volland 90+1)
Cologne 1 (Zoller 69) Att: 30,150

Monchengladbach 5 (Hazard 14, 80, Hahn 60, Herrmann 76, Traore 85)
Hertha Berlin 0 Att: 53,114

Apr 8 **Hertha Berlin 2** (Ibisevic 4, Kalou 72)
Hanover 2 (Sobiech 18, Schmiedebach 58) Att: 45,229

Apr 9 **Eintracht Frankfurt 0**
Hoffenheim 2 (Amiri 62, Uth 90)
Att: 51,000

Hamburg 1 (Holtby 90+2)
Darmstadt 2 (Sulu 38, Gondorf 54)
Att: 57,000

Apr 9...Eintracht Frankfurt v Hoffenheim

Apr 10...Schalke v Borussia Dortmund

Ingolstadt 1 (Hartmann 87)
Monchengladbach 0 Att: 15,200

Stuttgart 1 (Didavi 63)
Bayern Munich 3 (Niedermeier og 31, Alaba 52, Douglas Costa 89)
Att: 60,000

Werder Bremen 1 (Grillitsch 43)
Augsburg 2 (Finnbogason 53, Hong 87) Att: 41,000

Wolfsburg 1 (Schurrle 53)
Mainz 1 (Jairo 66) Att: 27,844

Apr 10 **Cologne 0**
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Brandt 39, Hernandez 44) Att: 50,000

Schalke 2 (Sane 51, Huntelaar pen 66)
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Kagawa 49, Ginter 56) Att: 61,670

Apr 15 **Hanover 2** (Anton 49, Sobiech 60)
Monchengladbach 0 Att: 46,196

Apr 16 **Augsburg 1** (Finnbogason 36)
Stuttgart 0 Att: 30,660

Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Kampl 70, Brandt 76, Bellarabi 90)
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 30,210

Bayern Munich 3 (Lewandowski 54, 65, Vidal 73)
Schalke 0 Att: 75,000

Darmstadt 2 (Rausch 51, Wagner 85)
Ingolstadt 0 Att: 15,600

Hoffenheim 2 (Schar 33, Uth 85)
Hertha Berlin 1 (Stark 27) Att: 27,745

Werder Bremen 3 (Pizarro pen 32, Bartels 64, Yatabare 83)
Wolfsburg 2 (Guilavogui 36, Dost 87)
Att: 40,557

Apr 17 **Borussia Dortmund 3** (Pulisic 38, Ramos 44, 86)
Hamburg 0 Att: 81,359

Mainz 2 (Cordoba 8, Balogun 49)
Cologne 3 (Risse 64, Jojic 74, Modeste 83) Att: 33,275

Apr 22 **Hamburg 2** (Lasogga 5, 32)
Werder Bremen 1 (Ujah 65)
Att: 57,000

Apr 23 **Cologne 4** (Modeste 4, 35, Risse 52, 75)
Darmstadt 1 (Gondorf 12) Att: 50,000

Hertha Berlin 0
Bayern Munich 2 (Vidal 48, Douglas Costa 79) Att: 76,233

Ingolstadt 2 (Morales 10, Hartmann 25)
Hanover 2 (Sakai 58, Kiyotake 82)
Att: 14,831

Schalke 2 (Choupo-Moting 14, Sane 29)
Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Brandt 54, Bellarabi 56, Hernandez 60) Att: 62,271

Stuttgart 0
Borussia Dortmund 3 (Kagawa 21, Pulisic 45, Mkhitaryan 56) Att: 60,000

Wolfsburg 0
Augsburg 2 (Finnbogason 1, Altintop 57) Att: 27,261

Apr 24 **Eintracht Frankfurt 2** (Russ 28, Bell og 84)
Mainz 1 (Brosinski 18) Att: 50,300

Monchengladbach 3 (Toljan og 7, Dahoud 45, Hahn 61)
Hoffenheim 1 (Kramaric 54) Att: 53,144

Apr 29 **Augsburg 0**
Cologne 0 Att: 30,144

Apr 30 **Bayer Leverkusen 2** (Brandt 2, Bender 16)
Hertha Berlin 1 (Ibisevic 21) Att: 30,210

Bayern Munich 1 (Muller 6)
Monchengladbach 1 (Hahn 72)
Att: 75,000

Borussia Dortmund 5 (Kagawa 7, Ramos 9, Reus 60, Aubameyang 77, 78)
Wolfsburg 1 (Schurrle 86) Att: 81,359

Darmstadt 1 (Vrancic 12)
Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Hasebe 56, Aigner 83) Att: 14,800

Hanover 1 (Sobiech 21)
Schalke 3 (Choupo-Moting 11, Huntelaar 45, Schopf 80) Att: 46,900

Hoffenheim 2 (Uth 37, Amiri 84)
Ingolstadt 1 (Lex 17) Att: 26,561

Mainz 0
Hamburg 0 Att: 34,000

May 2 **Werder Bremen 6** (Bartels 10, 80, Barba og 33, Oztunali 42, Pizarro 64, Ujah 86)
Stuttgart 2 (Didavi 26, Barba 53)
Att: 41,000

May 7 **Cologne 0**
Werder Bremen 0 Att: 50,000
Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Aigner 14)
Borussia Dortmund 0 Att: 51,500

Hamburg 0
Wolfsburg 1 (Luiz Gustavo 73)
Att: 57,000

Hanover 1 (Kiyotake 28)
Hoffenheim 0 Att: 38,096

Hertha Berlin 1 (Darida 15)
Darmstadt 2 (Gondorf 24, Wagner 83)
Att: 60,280

Ingolstadt 1 (Hartmann pen 42)
Bayern Munich 2 (Lewandowski pen 15, 32) Att: 15,617

Monchengladbach 2 (Hahn 43, 79)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Aranguiz 20)
Att: 54,010

Schalke 1 (Huntelaar 82)
Augsburg 1 (Baier 89) Att: 62,271

Stuttgart 1 (Gentner 6)
Mainz 3 (Malli 37, Cordoba 53, Onisiwo 77) Att: 60,000

May 14 **Augsburg 1** (Finnbogason 11)
Hamburg 3 (Gregoritsch 36, 74, N Muller 62) Att: 30,660

Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Aranguiz 31, Kampl 37, Kiessling 61)
Ingolstadt 2 (Leckie 16, Hartmann pen 69) Att: 29,220

Bayern Munich 3 (Lewandowski 12, Gotze 28, 54)
Hanover 1 (Sobiech 66) Att: 75,000

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Castro 11, Reus 75)
Cologne 2 (Modeste 27, Jojic 44)
Att: 81,359

Darmstadt 0
Monchengladbach 2 (Hazard 31, Hahn 63) Att: 17,000

Hoffenheim 1 (Uth 41)
Schalke 4 (Huntelaar 7, Choupo-Moting 14, Sane 56, Schar og 89) Att: 30,150

Mainz 0
Hertha Berlin 0 Att: 33,800

Werder Bremen 1 (Djilobodji 88)
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 42,100

Wolfsburg 3 (Arnold 11, Schurrle 29, 90+2)
Stuttgart 1 (Didavi 78) Att: 30,000

PADDY AGNEW

History makers

Juve and Higuain set new records

It was fitting that the two most newsworthy moments of the Serie A season finale concerned champions Juventus and Napoli's Argentinian ace Gonzalo Higuain. While Juve added yet another trophy to their overcrowded sideboard by winning the Italian Cup, Higuain wrote an arguably even more historic page in Italian football history with a hat-rick against Frosinone in Napoli's last league game of the season.

That triple took Higuain's seasonal tally to 36 and overtook the previous record of Sweden and Milan striker, Gunner Nordhal. In addition, Napoli's 4-0 defeat of already relegated Frosinone guaranteed the club a place in next season's Champions League group stage at the expense of third-placed Roma, who will have to undergo the lottery of pre-season qualifying.

Higuain's performances make him arguably the strongest centre-forward to play in Italian football since his compatriot Gabriel Batistuta, and it is indicative of his achievement that his closest rival in the scoring chart, Paulo Dybala of Juventus, got 19 goals, just over half as many.

These days, Napoli supporters speak of Higuain in the same way that they did of Diego Maradona, who led them to title wins in 1987 and 1990. Yet those fans must also be worried that Higuain's excellence has attracted a great deal of attention outside Italy. The 28-year-old will, however, prove a costly purchase for potential suitors.

Following his stupendous start to the season, Napoli owner Aurelio De Laurentis tied Higuain to a €94million buy-out clause in January. And while the striker concentrates on this summer's Copa America with Argentina, Napoli will enter into negotiations with his brother-agent Nicolas over a new contract, with suggestions that the club will increase his salary from €5.5m to €7m a year.

Also sitting down with the club in the close season will be coach Maurizio Sarri. Currently on €750,000 per annum, he is reportedly looking for a 100 per cent increase, given the success of his first season in Naples. If Napoli meet his demands, it might help convince Higuain to stay.

In the meantime, Napoli have put their money on the table to buy the 26-year-old Empoli defender Lorenzo Tonelli for next season in what could be the start of a busy summer in the transfer market for the club.

Also in need of some work during the close season are Milan and Internazionale, who both lost 3-1 – at home to Roma and at Sassuolo respectively – on the closing day of the season. After his side's defeat, Inter coach Roberto Mancini implied that the club would need "two or three experienced, quality players" to improve the squad for next term.

Meanwhile, it is not clear what Milan need in order to improve next time out. Played off the park in a game in which Roma had 65 per cent of possession, Milan look as though some serious reconstruction is required. Even if they played much better a week later, in a 1-0 Italian Cup Final loss to Juventus, they still finished the season empty handed, in seventh place, and out of Europe for a third consecutive season.

Milan's failure to win the Cup and take the victor's place in the Europa League was good news for Sassuolo who, in only their third season in Serie A, will find themselves playing in continental competition after the summer break. In 10 years, this remarkable club from a 40,000-inhabitant Emilia-Romagna town have won three promotions, from Serie C1 to Serie B to Serie A.

Interestingly, one of the coaches who helped them along the way was than current Juventus boss Massimiliano Allegri, who guided them into Serie B in 2008.

As for Milan, the decision in April by owner Silvio Berlusconi ▸

> "Everybody thought we had no chance after our bad start, when many thought the club should have sacked me"
> **Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri**

Keeping the faith...Juventus supporters in Turin celebrate another title

THE BREAKDOWN

TEAM OF THE SEASON

THE CUP FINAL

Substitute Alvaro Morata scored in extra time as Juventus beat Milan to become the first club to claim an Italian Cup and Serie A double in consecutive seasons.

RELEGATED & PROMOTED

Bottom since November, Verona were joined in the drop by Serie A newcomers Frosinone and Carpi. They will be replaced by Cagliari, Crotone and Pescara.

On the up...Crotone celebrate promotion

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS

Juventus and Napoli are in the group stage of the Champions League, while Roma start in the play-off round. Internazionale and Fiorentina go into the Europa League group stage, with Sassuolo entering the third qualifying round.

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Scoring goals is never easy but to manage 36 of them in the modern Serie A where, if nothing else, defensive play remains of the highest quality, was a remarkable achievement by Napoli's Gonzalo Huguain.

COACH OF THE SEASON
Having led Sassuolo to Serie A for the first time in his first season with the club, Eusebio Di Francesco has not only kept them there but took them to sixth this term and a place in the Europa League.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
At 16, Gigi Donnarumma became the youngest keeper to appear in Serie A when brought into the Milan side in October. Hugely talented and blessed with a cool head, he seems set for a long and very successful career.

Wanted...Gonzalo Higuain's record-breaking season has made him a target for Europe's richest clubs

to replace Serb coach Sinisa Mihajlovic with in-house youth-team coach Christian Brocchi hardly looks inspired. In six games, Brocchi collected just eight points with two wins, two draws and two defeats.

One of the oft-repeated criticisms of Berlusconi's handling of the club in recent years concerns the turnover of coaches. In nine years, from 1987 to 1996, only two men coached the Milan of Van Basten-Gullit-Rijkaard: namely, Arrigo Sacchi and Fabio Capello. Yet in the last three seasons, they have gone through five bosses in Allegri, Clarence Seedorf, Filippo Inzaghi, Mihajlovic and now Brocchi.

Furthermore, the ongoing uncertainty about the club's future, with Berlusconi caught in a quandary over whether to sell or not, has not helped. The most recent reports suggest that a Chinese consortium is willing to shell out €500m for a 70 per cent share. However, Berlusconi continues to contrast his apparent willingness to sell with a desire for concrete, long-term investment guarantees from the new ownership.

The Milan-Roma game did, however, provide two very positive moments, with the San Siro crowd offering a standing ovation to both Milan's 39-year-old goalkeeper Christian Abbiati and the visitors' Francesco Totti.

In a 22-year professional career, Abbiati spent 15 seasons with Milan, winning three Italian titles and one Champions League trophy (2003) with the club. To put that into context, Abbiati celebrated alongside current Milan keeper Gigi Donnarumma, holding the 17-year-old's arm aloft in a symbolic passing of the custodian baton.

As for Totti, he is becoming his own cliche. Against Milan, for the seventh consecutive time in a month, he came on as a late second-half substitute – and once again made an important, if not necessarily decisive contribution, laying on a goal for Brazilian reserve Emerson in the 82nd minute with a typically cheeky backheel. If, as seems increasingly likely, Totti plays on next season in this role of late substitute, there are likely to be a lot of standing ovations up and down Italy.

It was only fitting that champions Juventus should have the last competitive word of the 2015-16 campaign when winning the Italian Cup in Rome.

At the end of a season in which they had finished fully 34 points clear of Roma in Serie A, Juve might have been expected to dominate in the Final. However, against a highly motivated Milan, they had to ride out the storm, bring on useful subs in the shape of Juan Cuadrado, Alvaro Morata and Alex Sandro to wrap the game up in the 110th minute, with Morata slotting home Cuadrado's cross.

Juventus equalled the Serie A record of five successive titles, and that they did so with three games to spare is particularly impressive considering Allegri's men were 12th after 10 games and 11 points from the summit.

They started to turn the corner with a 95th-minute winner in the derby against Torino in October. "That gave us a confidence boost and we began to see even the most unthinkable targets were within our reach," said goalkeeper and skipper Gianluigi Buffon.

As the Juve juggernaut rolls on, with its gaze ever more firmly fixed on the Champions League, they also became the first side to pull off consecutive Italian Cup and Serie A doubles. "Everybody thought we had no chance after our bad start, when many thought the club should have sacked me," said coach Allegri. "We did very well to react after that poor start, winning 24 games out of 25 is almost impossible, but we did it."

Perhaps the only disappointment for Juve concerns Morata, who has been on loan from Real Madrid for two seasons.

While they would dearly like to buy out his loan, and have reportedly offered the Spanish side €20m for the 23-year-old, Real are only too aware that he might fetch twice that amount if offered to a Premier League club.

Even Juventus lose occasionally. Only very occasionally, though. WS

Respect...Roma's Francesco Totti recieved a standing ovation at Milan

Euro bound...Sassuolo's Francesco Magnanelli

SERIE A: 2015-16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	38	29	4	5	75	20	91
Napoli	38	25	7	6	80	32	82
Roma	38	23	11	4	83	41	80
Internazionale	38	20	7	11	50	38	67
Fiorentina	38	18	10	10	60	42	64
Sassuolo	38	16	13	9	49	40	61
Milan	38	15	12	11	49	43	57
Lazio	38	15	9	14	52	52	54
Chievo	38	13	11	14	43	45	50
Empoli	38	12	10	16	40	49	46
Genoa	38	13	7	18	45	48	46
Torino	38	12	9	17	52	55	45
Atalanta	38	11	12	15	41	47	45
Bologna	38	11	9	18	33	45	42
Sampdoria	38	10	10	18	48	61	40
Palermo	38	10	9	19	38	65	39
Udinese	38	10	9	19	35	60	39
Carpi	38	9	11	18	37	57	38
Frosinone	38	8	7	23	35	76	31
Verona	38	5	13	20	34	63	28

SIX KEY MATCHES

AUG 30, 2015
Defending champions Juventus, having sold the likes of Andrea Pirlo, Carlos Tevez and Arturo Vidal, and missing the injured Claudio Marchisio and Sami Khedira, are outplayed by Roma – and by more than the 2-1 scoreline suggests.

SEP 26, 2015
Napoli continue their early season form with a convincing 2-1 victory over Juventus at the San Paolo. Juventus, meanwhile, are struggling.

Derby delight...Juan Cuadrado

NOV 1, 2015
Juan Cuadrado scores a dramatic injury-time winner for Juventus against Torino in the Turin derby as the defending champions get their stuttering title defence back on track.

FEB 13, 2016
Juventus go top of table as they beat Napoli 1-0 with an 86th-minute goal from substitute Simone Zaza in an absorbing game in which Napoli probably deserved a point.

Vital...Juve overcome Napoli (in red)

APR 3, 2016
Napoli's title hopes are all but ended with an unexpected 3-1 defeat away to Udinese in which striker Gonzalo Higuain is sent off.

APR 9, 2016
Juventus open up a nine-point lead at the top of Serie A after they come from behind to claim a 2-1 victory over Milan at San Siro.

Over...Napoli (in blue) fall at Udinese

Aug 22, 2015 **Lazio 2** (Biglia 17, Kishna 23)
Bologna 1 (Mancosu 43) Att: 19,464

Verona 1 (Jankovic 61)
Roma 1 (Florenzi 66) Att: 22,255

Aug 23 **Empoli 1** (Saponara 7)
Chievo 3 (Meggiorini 55, Birsa 60, Paloschi 64) Att: 7,309

Fiorentina 2 (Marcos Alonso 38, Ilicic pen 56)
Milan 0 Att: 33,904

Frosinone 1 (Soddimo 7)
Torino 2 (Quagliarella 59, Baselli 64) Att: 9,000

Internazionale 1 (Jovetic 90+3)
Atalanta 0 Att: 37,042

Juventus 0
Udinese 1 (Thereau 78) Att: 38,433

Palermo 1 (El Kaoutari 90+1)
Genoa 0 Att: 22,608

Sampdoria 5 (Eder pen 14, 33, Muriel 21, 31, Fernando 37)
Carpi 2 (Lazzari 38, Matos 88) Att: 21,835

Sassuolo 2 (Floro Flores 32, Sansone 84)
Napoli 1 (Hamsik 3) Att: 13,755

Aug 29 **Bologna 0**
Sassuolo 1 (Floro Flores 86) Att: 15,732

Milan 2 (Bacca 16, Luiz Adriano 69)
Empoli 1 (Saponara 20) Att: 34,382

Aug 30 **Atalanta 2** (Stendardo 21, Gomez 69)
Frosinone 0 Att: 14,546

Carpi 1 (Di Gaudio 81)
Internazionale 2 (Jovetic 31, pen 89) Att: 14,091

Aug 23...Sampdoria v Carpi

Chievo 4 (Meggiorini 12, Paloschi 30, 68, Birsa 45)
Lazio 0 Att: 10,000

Genoa 2 (Pavoletti 57, Gakpe 76)
Verona 0 Att: 19,462

Napoli 2 (Higuain 9, 39)
Sampdoria 2 (Eder pen 58, 59) Att: 25,128

Roma 2 (Pjanic 61, Dzeko 79)
Juventus 1 (Dybala 87) Att: 56,040

Torino 3 (Moretti 68, Quagliarella 69, Baselli 77)
Fiorentina 1 (Marcos Alonso 10) Att: 20,482

Udinese 0
Palermo 1 (Rigoni 8) Att: 13,200

Sep 12 **Fiorentina 1** (Babacar 60)
Genoa 0 Att: 30,048

Frosinone 0
Roma 2 (Iago Falque 44, Iturbe 90+3) Att: 9,000

Juventus 1 (Dybala pen 83)
Chievo 1 (Hetemaj 5) Att: 28,899

Sep 13 **Empoli 2** (Saponara 3, Pucciarelli 18)
Napoli 2 (Insigne 7, Allan 50) Att: 9,632

Internazionale 1 (Guarin 58)
Milan 0 Att: 79,154

Lazio 2 (Matri 64, 73)
Udinese 0 Att: 24,350

Palermo 2 (Hiljemark 6, Djurdjevic 88)
Carpi 2 (Vitiello og 24, Borriello 64) Att: 20,250

Sassuolo 2 (Magnanelli 22, Floro Flores 41)
Atalanta 2 (Pinilla 13, 33) Att: 8,644

Verona 2 (Toni pen 49, Gomez Taleb 72)
Torino 2 (Baselli 66, Acquah 73) Att: 17,868

Sep 14 **Sampdoria 2** (Eder 75, Soriano 79)
Bologna 0 Att: 20,976

Sep 19 **Milan 3** (Bacca 21, 75, Bonaventura 40)
Palermo 2 (Hiljemark 32, 72) Att: 33,689

Udinese 1 (Zapata 19)
Empoli 2 (Paredes 73, Maccarone 90+2) Att: 15,000

Sep 20 **Atalanta 1** (Moralez 89)
Verona 1 (Pisano 90+7) Att: 14,323

Bologna 1 (Mounier 27)
Frosinone 0 Att: 28,436

Carpi 0
Fiorentina 1 (Babacar 35) Att: 7,981

Chievo 0
Internazionale 1 (Icardi 42) Att: 20,000

Genoa 0
Juventus 2 (Lamanna og 37, Pogba pen 60) Att: 25,115

Napoli 5 (Higuain 14, 59, Allan 35, Insigne 48, Gabbiadini 79)
Lazio 0 Att: 18,766

Roma 2 (Totti 36, Salah 49)
Sassuolo 2 (Defrel 22, Politano 45) Att: 36,727

Torino 2 (Quagliarella 18, 24)
Sampdoria 0 Att: 18,686

Sep 22 **Udinese 2** (Agyemang-Badu 51, D Zapata 58)
Milan 3 (Balotelli 5, Bonaventura 11, C Zapata 45+1) Att: 16,500

Sep 23 **Carpi 0**
Napoli 0 Att: 9,950

Chievo 1 (Castro 75)
Torino 0 Att: 10,000

Fiorentina 2 (Blaszczykowski 71, Kalinic 82)
Bologna 0 Att: 25,085

Internazionale 1 (Felipe Melo 56)
Verona 0 Att: 34,548

Juventus 1 (Zaza 50)
Frosinone 1 (Blanchard 90+2) Att: 35,973

Lazio 2 (Djordjevic 35, Felipe Anderson 62)
Genoa 0 Att: 15,716

Palermo 0
Sassuolo 1 (Floccari 35) Att: 17,730

Sampdoria 2 (Eder 50, Manolas og 85)
Roma 1 (Salah 69) Att: 21,769

Sep 24 **Empoli 0**
Atalanta 1 (Rafael Toloi 31) Att: 7,625

Sep 26 **Napoli 2** (Insigne 26, Higuain 62)
Juventus 1 (Lemina 63) Att: 40,311

Roma 5 (Manolas 24, Pjanic 28, Gervinho 31, Salah 51, Digne 68)
Carpi 1 (Borriello 34) Att: 33,471

Sep 27 **Bologna 1** (Mounier 31)
Udinese 2 (Agyemang-Badu 61, Zapata 85) Att: 15,576

Genoa 1 (Dzemaili 10)
Milan 0 Att: 21,294

Sep 13...Internazionale v Milan

Internazionale 1 (Icardi 60)
Fiorentina 4 (Ilicic pen 4, Kalinic 18, 23, 76) Att: 42,687

Sassuolo 1 (Defrel 3)
Chievo 1 (Pepe 24) Att: 8,220

Torino 2 (Gonzalez og 44, Benassi 48)
Palermo 1 (Gonzalez 71) Att: 17,640

Verona 1 (Helander 33)
Lazio 2 (Biglia pen 63, Parolo 86) Att: 16,591

Sep 28 **Atalanta 2** (Moisander og 7, Denis 90+1)
Sampdoria 1 (Soriano 90+4) Att: 15,756

Frosinone 2 (Dionisi 58, 71)
Empoli 0 Att: 7,165

Oct 3 **Carpi 2** (Padelli og 55, Matos 72)
Torino 1 (Lopez pen 75) Att: 8,011

Chievo 1 (Castro 83)
Verona 1 (Pisano 70) Att: 20,000

Oct 4 **Empoli 1** (Maccarone 88)
Sassuolo 0 Att: 7,634

Fiorentina 3 (Ilicic pen 6, Borja Valero 34, Joan Verdu 90)
Atalanta 0 Att: 25,644

Juventus 3 (Morata 33, Dybala pen 53, Khedira 63)
Bologna 1 (Mounier 5) Att: 39,330

Lazio 2 (Keita 80, Djordjevic 90+4)
Frosinone 0 Att: 27,806

Milan 0
Napoli 4 (Allan 13, Insigne 48, 68, Ely og 77) Att: 50,488

Palermo 2 (Gilardino 58, Gonzalez 90+1)
Roma 4 (Pjanic 2, Florenzi 14, Gervinho 28, 90+2) Att: 15,910

Sampdoria 1 (Muriel 51)
Internazionale 1 (Perisic 76) Att: 24,329

Udinese 1 (Di Natale 47)
Genoa 1 (Perotti pen 76) Att: 12,704

Oct 17 **Roma 3** (Pjanic 56, De Rossi 59, Salah 69)
Empoli 1 (Buchel 75) Att: 34,124

Torino 1 (Baselli 73)
Milan 1 (Bacca 63) Att: 25,477

Oct 18 **Atalanta 3** (Pinilla 8, Gomez 43, Cigarini pen 63)
Carpi 0 Att: 14,479

Bologna 0
Palermo 1 (Vazquez 24) Att: 16,010

Frosinone 2 (Paganini 54, Dionisi 55)
Sampdoria 0 Att: 7,252

Genoa 3 (Pavoletti 13, Gakpe 17, Tachtsidis 90+3)
Chievo 2 (Paloschi 1, Pellissier 77) Att: 19,207

Internazionale 0
Juventus 0 Att: 79,154

Napoli 2 (Insigne 46, Higuain 75)
Fiorentina 1 (Kalinic 73) Att: 49,800

Sassuolo 2 (Berardi pen 7, Missiroli 60)
Lazio 1 (Felipe Anderson 67) Att: 11,812

Verona 1 (Pazzini pen 41)
Udinese 1 (Thereau 84) Att: 16,382

Oct 24 **Carpi 1** (Letizia 24)
Bologna 2 (Gastaldello 47, Masina 90+3) Att: 6,747

Empoli 2 (Krunic 44, Zielinski 57)
Genoa 0 Att: 8,770

Palermo 1 (Gilardino 66)
Internazionale 1 (Perisic 60) Att: 20,626

Oct 25 **Chievo 0**
Napoli 1 (Higuain 59) Att: 12,000

Fiorentina 1 (Babacar 90+4)
Roma 2 (Salah 7, Gervinho 34) Att: 36,297

Juventus 2 (Dybala 28, Mandzukic 49)
Atalanta 0 Att: 38,720

Lazio 3 (Lulic 40, Felipe Anderson 70, 90+4)
Torino 0 Att: 22,131

Milan 2 (Bacca pen 31, Luiz Adriano 86)
Sassuolo 1 (Berardi 53) Att: 37,568

Sampdoria 4 (Muriel 11, Zukanovic 28, Soriano 45+1, Eder 54)
Verona 1 (Ionita 75) Att: 21,082

Udinese 1 (Lodi 20)
Frosinone 0 Att: 13,298

Oct 27 **Bologna 0**
Internazionale 1 (Icardi 67) Att: 22,350

Oct 28 **Atalanta 2** (Basta og 69, Gomez 86)
Lazio 1 (Biglia 17) Att: 14,519

Frosinone 2 (D Ciofani 51, Sammarco 90+1)
Carpi 1 (Marrone 67) Att: 6,444

Milan 1 (Antonelli 53)
Chievo 0 Att: 25,523

Napoli 2 (Higuain 39, Mertens 80)
Palermo 0 Att: 27,580

Roma 3 (Pjanic 4, Maicon 9, Gervinho 63)
Udinese 1 (Thereau 77) Att: 29,599

Sassuolo 1 (Sansone 20)
Juventus 0 Att: 20,570

Torino 3 (Lopez 28, Zappacosta 35, Tachtsidis og 89)
Genoa 3 (Laxalt 26, 90+4, Pavoletti 67) Att: 16,226

Verona 0
Fiorentina 2 (Marquez og 25, Kalinic 57) Att: 18,222

Oct 29 **Sampdoria 1** (Eder 67)
Empoli 1 (Pucciarelli 60) Att: 20,315

Oct 31 **Internazionale 1** (Medel 31)
Roma 0 Att: 59,213

Juventus 2 (Pogba 19, Cuadrado 90+3)
Torino 1 (Bovo 51) Att: 39,828

Nov 1 **Bologna 3** (Giaccherini 52, Destro 58, Brienza 85)
Atalanta 0 Att: 15,748

Carpi 0
Verona 0 Att: 7,093

Fiorentina 4 (Rebic 24, Rodriguez 29, Babacar pen 31, Mario Suarez 43)
Frosinone 1 (Frara 87) Att: 27,466

Genoa 0
Napoli 0 Att: 26,292

Lazio 1 (Kishna 85)
Milan 3 (Bertolacci 25, Mexes 53, Bacca 79) Att: 28,020

Udinese 0
Sassuolo 0 Att: 13,277

Nov 2 **Chievo 1** (Inglese 34)
Sampdoria 1 (Eder 8) Att: 10,000

Palermo 0
Empoli 1 (Saponara 53) Att: 16,731

Nov 7 **Milan 0**
Atalanta 0 Att: 33,192

Verona 0
Bologna 2 (Giaccherini 6, Donsah 14) Att: 18,007

Nov 8 **Empoli 1** (Maccarone 19)
Juventus 3 (Mandzukic 32, Evra 38, Dybala 84) Att: 14,693

Frosinone 2 (Blanchard 31, Diakite 38)
Genoa 2 (Pavoletti 6, Gakpe 75) Att: 6,450

Napoli 1 (Higuain 53)
Udinese 0 Att: 42,544

Palermo 1 (Gilardino 71)
Chievo 0 Att: 14,176

Roma 2 (Dzeko pen 10, Gervinho 63)
Lazio 0 Att: 35,253

Sampdoria 0
Fiorentina 2 (Ilicic pen 10, Kalinic 58) Att: 22,457

Sassuolo 1 (Sansone 28)
Carpi 0 Att: 10,264

Torino 0
Internazionale 1 (Kondogbia 31) Att: 25,870

Nov 21 **Bologna 2** (Masina 14, Destro pen 87)
Roma 2 (Pjanic pen 52, Dzeko pen 72) Att: 23,304

Juventus 1 (Dybala 65)
Milan 0 Att: 40,841

Nov 22 **Atalanta 0**
Torino 1 (Bovo 52) Att: 15,776

Carpi 1 (Gamberini og 61)
Chievo 2 (Inglese 8, Meggiorini 14) Att: 7,033

Fiorentina 2 (Kalinic 56, 61)
Empoli 2 (Livaja 18, Buchel 27) Att: 27,618

Genoa 2 (Rincon 51, Pavoletti 90+5)
Sassuolo 1 (Acerbi 90+3) Att: 19,347

Internazionale 4 (Biabiany 29, Icardi 53, Murillo 87, Brozovic 90+2)
Frosinone 0 Att: 37,469

Lazio 1 (Candreva pen 70)
Palermo 1 (Goldaniga 21) Att: 17,175

Udinese 1 (Agyemang-Badu 34)
Sampdoria 0 Att: 15,713

Verona 0
Napoli 2 (Insigne 67, Higuain 74) Att: 17,483

Nov 28 **Milan 4** (Bonaventura 16, Niang pen 38, 49, Luiz Adriano 79)
Sampdoria 1 (Eder pen 87) Att: 32,368

Torino 2 (Belotti 75, Vives 90+2)
Bologna 0 Att: 17,508

Nov 29 **Chievo 2** (Paloschi 26, Inglese 72)
Udinese 3 (Frey og 43, Thereau 46, 81) Att: 10,000

Empoli 1 (Tonelli 5)
Lazio 0 Att: 9,362

Frosinone 3 (D Ciofani pen 22, 40, Dionisi 48)
Verona 2 (Viviani 69, Moras 75) Att: 6,864

Genoa 1 (Diogo Figueiras 8)
Carpi 2 (Borriello 58, Zaccardo 81) Att: 19,633

Palermo 0
Juventus 3 (Mandzukic 54, Sturaro 89, Zaza 90+3) Att: 25,737

Roma 0
Atalanta 2 (Gomez 40, Denis pen 82) Att: 29,222

Nov 30 **Napoli 2** (Higuain 2, 62)
Internazionale 1 (Ljajic 67) Att: 54,149

Sassuolo 1 (Floccari 42)
Fiorentina 1 (Borja Valero 5) Att: 13,633

Dec 4 **Lazio 0**
Juventus 2 (Gentiletti og 7, Dybala 32) Att: 27,740

Dec 5 **Internazionale 1** (Ljajic 59)
Genoa 0 Att: 39,485

Torino 1 (Lopez pen 90+4)
Roma 1 (Pjanic 83) Att: 19,781

Dec 6 **Atalanta 3** (Denis 18, Cherubin 26, De Roon 80)
Palermo 0 Att: 14,499

Bologna 3 (Destro 14, 60, Rossettini 21)
Napoli 2 (Higuain 87, 90) Att: 22,334

Carpi 0
Milan 0 Att: 12,150

Fiorentina 3 (Badelj 26, Ilicic pen 62, Rodriguez 86)
Udinese 0 Att: 27,021

Frosinone 0
Chievo 2 (Paloschi pen 90, Meggiorini 90+3) Att: 6,484

Sampdoria 1 (Zukanovic 90)
Sassuolo 3 (Acerbi 8, Floccari 27, Pellegrini 39) Att: 20,581

Verona 0
Empoli 1 (Costa 61) Att: 15,198

Dec 12 **Genoa 0**
Bologna 1 (Rossettini 90+2) Att: 19,594

Palermo 4 (Goldaniga 5, Vazquez 17, Trajkovski 60, Gilardino 86)
Frosinone 1 (Sammarco 24) Att: 14,402

Udinese 0
Internazionale 4 (Icardi 23, 84, Jovetic 31, Brozovic 87) Att: 16,780

Dec 13 **Chievo 1** (Birsa 76)
Atalanta 0 Att: 9,000

Empoli 3 (Maccarone 46, 61, Saponara 51)
Carpi 0 Att: 8,863

Juventus 3 (Cuadrado 6, Mandzukic 80, Dybala 90+1)
Fiorentina 1 (Ilicic pen 3) Att: 36,690

Milan 1 (Bacca 52)
Verona 1 (Toni pen 57) Att: 27,497

Napoli 0
Roma 0 Att: 55,726

Dec 14 **Lazio 1** (Matri 78)
Sampdoria 1 (Zukanovic 90+3) Att: 16,544

Dec 19 **Bologna 2** (Brienza 36, Destro 45)
Empoli 3 (Pucciarelli 24, Maccarone 42, 48) Att: 19,214

Dec 20 **Atalanta 1** (Gomez 54)
Napoli 3 (Hamsik pen 52, Higuain 62, 85) Att: 17,134

Carpi 2 (Borriello 15, Bonucci og 90+2)
Juventus 3 (Mandzukic 18, 41, Pogba 50) Att: 17,755

Fiorentina 2 (Kalinic 20, Ilicic 32)
Chievo 0 Att: 25,156

Frosinone 2 (D Ciofani 19, Dionisi 84)
Milan 4 (Abate 50, Bacca 55, Alex 77, Bonaventura 90+3) Att: 7,931

Internazionale 1 (Icardi 61)
Lazio 2 (Candreva 5, 87) Att: 46,260

Roma 2 (Florenzi 42, Umar 89)
Genoa 0 Att: 28,133

Sampdoria 2 (Soriano 53, Ivan 76)
Palermo 0 Att: 20,309

Torino 0
Udinese 1 (Perica 41) Att: 15,624

Verona 1 (Toni 39)
Sassuolo 1 (Floccari 34) Att: 16,949

Jan 5, 2016 **Genoa 2** (Pavoletti 69, 81)
Sampdoria 3 (Soriano 18, 49, Eder 39) Att: 30,216

Jan 6 **Chievo 3** (Paloschi 44, Dainelli 58, Pepe 85)
Roma 3 (Umar 7, Florenzi 37, Iago Falque 71) Att: 15,000

Empoli 0
Internazionale 1 (Icardi 45+1) Att: 13,735

Juventus 3 (Dybala 8, Bonucci 45, Zaza 82)
Verona 0 Att: 38,748

Lazio 0
Carpi 0 Att: 20,090

Milan 0
Bologna 1 (Giaccherini 82) Att: 31,381

Napoli 2 (Insigne 16, Hamsik 41)
Torino 1 (Quagliarella pen 33) Att: 39,726

Palermo 1 (Gilardino 77)
Fiorentina 3 (Ilicic 13, 42, Blaszczykowski 90+3) Att: 13,928

Sassuolo 2 (Ajeti og 22, Falcinelli 75)
Frosinone 2 (Dionisi 16, Ajeti 45) Att: 8,850

Udinese 2 (Thereau 23, Perica 45+2)
Atalanta 1 (D'Alessandro 75) Att: 13,462

Jan 9 **Carpi 2** (Pasciuti 26, Lollo 70)
Udinese 1 (Zapata 72) Att: 5,268

Fiorentina 1 (Roncaglia 90+4)
Lazio 3 (Keita 45+1, Milinkovic-Savic 90+2, Felipe Anderson 90+6) Att: 25,361

Roma 1 (Rudiger 4)
Milan 1 (Kucka 50) Att: 34,777

Jan 10 **Atalanta 0**
Genoa 2 (Dzemaili 79, Pavoletti 81) Att: 13,946

Bologna 0
Chievo 1 (Pepe 79) Att: 15,818

Frosinone 1 (Sammarco 81)
Napoli 5 (Albiol 20, Higuain pen 30, 60, Hamsik 59, Gabbiadini 71) Att: 7,954

Internazionale 0
Sassuolo 1 (Berardi pen 90+5) Att: 40,322

Sampdoria 1 (Cassano 64)
Juventus 2 (Pogba 17, Khedira 46) Att: 25,024

Torino 0
Empoli 1 (Maccarone 56) Att: 14,730

Verona 0
Palermo 1 (Vazquez 27) Att: 15,325

Jan 16 **Atalanta 1** (Murillo og 17)
Internazionale 1 (Rafael Toloi og 25) Att: 19,274

Napoli 3 (Callejon 19, Higuain 42, 90+3)
Sassuolo 1 (Falcinelli pen 3) Att: 40,047

Torino 4 (Immobile pen 9, Belotti 37, 41, Benassi 82)
Frosinone 2 (Sammarco 33, Avelar og 74) Att: 17,865

Jan 17 **Bologna 2** (Giaccherini 2, Destro 18)
Lazio 2 (Candreva pen 71, Lulic 77) Att: 16,449

Carpi 2 (Lollo 27, Mbakogu pen 55)
Sampdoria 1 (Correa 33) Att: 9,669

Chievo 1 (Paloschi 7)
Empoli 1 (Tonelli 47) Att: 8,000

Genoa 4 (Suso 4, Pavoletti 71, 88, Rincon 75)
Palermo 0 Att: 19,387

Milan 2 (Bacca 4, Boateng 88)
Fiorentina 0 Att: 28,374

Roma 1 (Nainggolan 41)
Verona 1 (Pazzini pen 61) Att: 29,709

Udinese 0
Juventus 4 (Dybala 15, pen 26, Khedira 18, Alex Sandro 42) Att: 25,467

Jan 20 **Sassuolo 1** (Acerbi 40)
Torino 1 (Belotti 22) Att: 7,810

Jan 23 **Empoli 2** (Zielinski 32, Maccarone 61)
Milan 2 (Bacca 8, Bonaventura 48) Att: 11,499

Frosinone 0
Atalanta 0 Att: 7,564

Jan 24 **Fiorentina 2** (Ilicic 24, Rodriguez 83)
Torino 0 Att: 26,392

Internazionale 1 (Palacio 39)
Carpi 1 (Lasagna 90+2) Att: 35,826

Juventus 1 (Dybala 77)
Roma 0 Att: 38,348

Lazio 4 (Candreva pen 66, 81, Cataldi 72, Keita 90+6)
Chievo 1 (Cesar 5) Att: 17,118

Palermo 4 (Quaison 35, Hiljemark 56, Lazaar 77, Trajkovski 87)

Torino 0
Verona 0 Att: 15,838
Udinese 0
Lazio 0 Att: 13,611

Feb 2 **Sassuolo 0**
Roma 2 (Salah 11, El Shaarawy 90+4) Att: 11,102

Feb 3 **Empoli 1** (Pucciarelli 90)
Udinese 1 (Zapata 23) Att: 7,581

Fiorentina 2 (Borja Valero 2, Zarate 90+3)
Carpi 1 (Lasagna 73) Att: 22,791

Frosinone 1 (Dionisi pen 77)
Bologna 0 Att: 6,177

Internazionale 1 (Icardi 48)
Chievo 0 Att: 31,494

Juventus 1 (De Maio og 30)
Genoa 0 Att: 37,151

Lazio 0
Napoli 2 (Higuain 24, Callejon 27) Att: 20,189

Palermo 0
Milan 2 (Bacca 19, Niang pen 33) Att: 17,605

Sampdoria 2 (Muriel 66, Soriano 84)
Torino 2 (Belotti 71, 90+4) Att: 20,223

Verona 2 (Siligardi 42, Pazzini 83)
Atalanta 1 (Conti 30) Att: 15,490

Feb 6 **Bologna 1** (Giaccherini 63)
Fiorentina 1 (Bernardeschi 59) Att: 19,591

Genoa 0
Lazio 0 Att: 19,670

Feb 7 **Atalanta 0**
Empoli 0 Att: 12,352

Jan 24...Lazio v Chievo

Udinese 1 (Thereau 79) Att: 14,325

Sampdoria 2 (Correa 45, Eder 73)
Napoli 4 (Higuain 9, Insigne pen 18, Hamsik 60, Mertens 79) Att: 22,635

Sassuolo 0
Bologna 2 (Giaccherini 68, Floccari 90+4) Att: 12,202

Verona 1 (Pazzini 39)
Genoa 1 (Coppola og 19) Att: 15,806

Jan 30 **Atalanta 1** (Denis 32)
Sassuolo 1 (Berardi 27) Att: 13,640

Carpi 1 (Mancosu pen 74)
Palermo 1 (Gilardino 24) Att: 6,835

Roma 3 (Nainggolan 18, El Shaarawy 48, Pjanic 84)
Frosinone 1 (D Ciofani 24) Att: 29,799

Jan 31 **Bologna 3** (Mounier 12, Donsah 24, Destro pen 88)
Sampdoria 2 (Muriel 54, Correa 80) Att: 18,043

Chievo 0
Juventus 4 (Morata 6, 40, Alex Sandro 61, Pogba 67) Att: 25,000

Genoa 0
Fiorentina 0 Att: 20,832

Milan 3 (Alex 35, Bacca 73, Niang 77)
Internazionale 0 Att: 77,043

Napoli 5 (Higuain 33, Insigne 37, Camporese og 51, Callejon 83, 88)
Empoli 1 (Paredes 28) Att: 39,986

Frosinone 0
Juventus 2 (Cuadrado 73, Dybala 90+1) Att: 7,954

Milan 1 (Niang 48)
Udinese 1 (Armero 17) Att: 27,656

Napoli 1 (Higuain pen 69)
Carpi 0 Att: 37,274

Roma 2 (Florenzi 45, Perotti 50)
Sampdoria 1 (Pjanic og 57) Att: 28,301

Sassuolo 2 (Defrel 45+1, Missiroli 50)
Palermo 2 (Vazquez 30, Djurdjevic 53) Att: 8,719

Torino 1 (Benassi 19)
Chievo 2 (Bruno Peres og 34, Birsa pen 72) Att: 14,327

Verona 3 (Helander 13, Pisano 16, Ionita 57)
Internazionale 3 (Murillo 8, Icardi 61, Perisic 78) Att: 21,104

Feb 11 **Lazio 5** (Matri 45, Mauri 50, Felipe Anderson 69, Keita 82, Candreva pen 90)
Verona 2 (Greco 72, Toni 79) Att: 16,534

Feb 12 **Carpi 1** (Lasagna 61)
Roma 3 (Digne 56, Dzeko 84, Salah 85) Att: 9,166

Feb 13 **Chievo 1** (Birsa pen 29)
Sassuolo 1 (Sansone 30) Att: 8,000

Empoli 1 (Maccarone 59)
Frosinone 2 (D Ciofani 17, pen 73)

Att: 7,897
Juventus 1 (Zaza 88)
Napoli 0 Att: 41,305

Feb 14 **Fiorentina 2** (Borja Valero 60, Babacar 90+1)
Internazionale 1 (Brozovic 26)
Att: 30,486

Milan 2 (Bacca 5, Honda 64)
Genoa 1 (Cerci 90+2) Att: 30,547

Palermo 1 (Gilardino 2)
Torino 3 (Immobile pen 19, 69, Gonzalez og 31) Att: 13,820

Sampdoria 0
Atalanta 0 Att: 20,341

Udinese 0
Bologna 1 (Destro 79) Att: 14,975

Feb 19 **Bologna 0**
Juventus 0 Att: 29,463

Feb 20 **Internazionale 3** (D'Ambrosio 23, Miranda 57, Icardi 73)
Sampdoria 1 (Quagliarella 90+2)
Att: 39,055

Verona 3 (Toni 29, Pazzini 57, Ionita 90+5)
Chievo 1 (Pellissier pen 71) Att: 22,469

Feb 21 **Atalanta 2** (Conti 84, Pinilla 90+1)
Fiorentina 3 (Fernandez 67, Tello 81, Kalinic 87) Att: 15,415

Frosinone 0
Lazio 0 Att: 7,954

Genoa 2 (Cerci pen 57, Laxalt 70)
Udinese 1 (Adnan 33) Att: 19,061

Roma 5 (Dzeko 30, 89, Keita 52, Salah 60, 62)
Palermo 0 Att: 25,744

Sassuolo 3 (Berardi 41, Defrel 48, 50)
Empoli 2 (Zielinski 36, Maccarone pen 70) Att: 8,410

Torino 0
Carpi 0 Att: 22,891

Feb 22 **Napoli 1** (Insigne 39)
Milan 1 (Bonaventura 44) Att: 54,758

Feb 27 **Empoli 1** (Zukanovic og 22)
Roma 3 (El Shaarawy 5, 74, Pjanic 27)
Att: 12,761

Milan 1 (Antonelli 45)
Torino 0 Att: 33,748

Feb 28 **Carpi 1** (Verdi pen 75)
Atalanta 1 (Kurtic 52) Att: 6,699

Chievo 1 (Castro 51)
Genoa 0 Att: 8,000

Juventus 2 (Bonucci 47, Morata pen 84)
Internazionale 0 Att: 40,204

Palermo 0
Bologna 0 Att: 15,566

Sampdoria 2 (Fernando 44, Quagliarella 69)
Frosinone 0 Att: 20,622

Udinese 2 (Agyemang-Badu 31, Thereau 56)
Verona 0 Att: 14,776

Feb 29 **Fiorentina 1** (Marcos Alonso 6)
Napoli 1 (Higuain 7) Att: 35,000

Lazio 0
Sassuolo 2 (Berardi pen 41, Defrel 67)
Att: 13,995

Mar 4 **Roma 4** (El Shaarawy 22, Salah 25, 58, Perotti 38)
Fiorentina 1 (Ilicic pen 45+3)
Att: 36,263

Mar 5 **Napoli 3** (Higuain 6, Chiriches 38, Callejon 70)
Chievo 1 (Rigoni 2) Att: 33,239

Verona 0
Sampdoria 3 (Soriano 6, Cassano 11, Christodoulopoulos 30)
Att: 18,900

Mar 6 **Atalanta 0**
Juventus 2 (Barzagli 24, Lemina 86)
Att: 19,770

Bologna 0
Carpi 0 Att: 16,820

Frosinone 2 (D Ciofani 12, Blanchard 60)
Udinese 0 Att: 6,510

Genoa 1 (Rigoni 48)
Empoli 0 Att: 21,134

Internazionale 3 (Ljajic 11, Icardi 23, Perisic 54)
Palermo 1 (Vazquez 45) Att: 32,455

Sassuolo 2 (Duncan 27, Sansone 72)
Milan 0 Att: 17,697

Torino 1 (Belotti 12)
Lazio 1 (Biglia pen 78) Att: 18,863

Mar 11 **Juventus 1** (Dybala 36)
Sassuolo 0 Att: 39,690

Mar 12 **Empoli 1** (Laurini 82)
Sampdoria 1 (Quagliarella 42)
Att: 15,492

Internazionale 2 (Perisic 72, D'Ambrosio 76)
Bologna 1 (Brienza 90) Att: 40,267

Mar 13 **Carpi 2** (Bianco 27, De Guzman pen 90)
Frosinone 1 (Dionisi 71) Att: 8,147

Chievo 0
Milan 0 Att: 15,000

Fiorentina 1 (Zarate 40)
Verona 1 (Pisano 86) Att: 27,094

Genoa 3 (Cerci pen 20, pen 45+2, Rigoni 66)
Torino 2 (Immobile 4, 15) Att: 20,225

Lazio 2 (Klose 67, 90+5)
Atalanta 0 Att: 16,553

Palermo 0
Napoli 1 (Higuain pen 23) Att: 14,628

Udinese 1 (Bruno Fernandes 85)
Roma 2 (Dzeko 15, Florenzi 74)
Att: 17,626

Mar 19 **Empoli 0**
Palermo 0 Att: 8,597

Roma 1 (Nainggolan 84)
Internazionale 1 (Perisic 53)
Att: 47,049

Mar 20 **Atalanta 2** (Gomez 27, Diamanti 45+1)
Bologna 0 Att: 18,258

Frosinone 0
Fiorentina 0 Att: 7,454

Milan 1 (Bacca 15)
Lazio 1 (Parolo 9) Att: 33,481

Napoli 3 (Higuain 51, 81, El Kaddouri 90+1)
Genoa 1 (Rincon 10) Att: 43,917

Sampdoria 0
Chievo 1 (Meggiorini 24) Att: 20,754

Apr 17...Atalanta v Roma

Sassuolo 1 (Politano 64)
Udinese 1 (Zapata 8) Att: 10,344

Torino 1 (Belotti pen 48)
Juventus 4 (Pogba 33, Khedira 42, Morata 63, 76) Att: 24,428

Verona 1 (Ionita 63)
Carpi 2 (Di Gaudio 42, Lasagna 66)
Att: 17,707

Apr 2 **Carpi 1** (Gagliolo 25)
Sassuolo 3 (Sansone 4, Defrel 35, Acerbi 73) Att: 7,457

Juventus 1 (Mandzukic 44)
Empoli 0 Att: 38,911

Apr 3 **Atalanta 2** (Pinilla 44, Gomez 62)
Milan 1 (Luiz Adriano pen 5) Att: 18,652

Chievo 3 (Cacciatore 6, Rigoni 53, Birsa 74)
Palermo 1 (Gilardino 28) Att: 8,000

Fiorentina 1 (Ilicic 24)
Sampdoria 1 (Alvarez 39) Att: 28,803

Genoa 4 (Suso 43, 59, 76, Rigoni 72)
Frosinone 0 Att: 20,033

Internazionale 1 (Icardi pen 17)
Torino 2 (Molinaro 55, Belotti pen 73)
Att: 39,125

Lazio 1 (Parolo 75)
Roma 4 (El Shaarawy 15, Dzeko 64, Florenzi 83, Perotti 87) Att: 29,922

Udinese 3 (Bruno Fernandes pen 14, 45+1, Thereau 57)
Napoli 1 (Higuain 24) Att: 20,162

Apr 4 **Bologna 0**
Verona 1 (Samir 42) Att: 16,606

Apr 9 **Chievo 1** (Pellissier 83)
Carpi 0 Att: 8,000

Frosinone 0
Internazionale 1 (Icardi 74) Att: 7,954

Milan 1 (Alex 18)
Juventus 2 (Mandzukic 27, Pogba 65)
Att: 75,393

Sassuolo 0
Genoa 1 (Dzemaili 42) Att: 10,249

Apr 10 **Empoli 2** (Pucciarelli 41, Zielinski 88)
Fiorentina 0 Att: 9,651

Napoli 3 (Gabbiadini 33, Insigne pen 45+2, Callejon 70)
Verona 0 Att: 42,784

Palermo 0
Lazio 3 (Klose 10, 15, Felipe Anderson 72) Att: 22,531

Sampdoria 2 (Armero og 58, Fernando 85)
Udinese 0 Att: 20,615

Torino 2 (Bruno Peres 35, Lopez 46)
Atalanta 1 (Cigarini 82) Att: 19,369

Apr 11 **Roma 1** (Salah 50)
Bologna 1 (Rossettini 25) Att: 32,835

Apr 16 **Bologna 0**
Torino 1 (Belotti pen 90+3) Att: 20,655

Carpi 4 (Di Gaudio 45+4, Lollo 45+5, Pasciuti 49, Sabelli 86)
Genoa 1 (Pavoletti 34) Att: 9,243

Internazionale 2 (Icardi 4, Brozovic 44)
Napoli 0 Att: 59,310

Apr 17 **Atalanta 3** (D'Alessandro 33, Borriello 37, 50)
Roma 3 (Digne 23, Nainggolan 27, Totti 85) Att: 15,326

Fiorentina 3 (Rodriguez 10, Ilicic 57, Consigli og 83)
Sassuolo 1 (Berardi 55) Att: 27,585

Juventus 4 (Khedira 10, Pogba 71, Cuadrado 74, Padoin 89)
Palermo 0 Att: 39,133

Lazio 2 (Candreva pen 6, Onazi 44)
Empoli 0
Att: 20,983

Sampdoria 0
Milan 1 (Bacca 71) Att: 21,615

Udinese 0
Chievo 0 Att: 15,785

Verona 1 (Bianchetti 64)
Frosinone 2 (Russo 15, Frara 90+2)
Att: 17,761

Apr 19 **Napoli 6** (Gabbiadini 10, pen 35, Mertens 58, 80, 88, David Lopez 89)
Bologna 0 Att: 28,983

Apr 20 **Chievo 5** (Floro Flores 36, Pellissier pen 47, 80, Rigoni 58, Sardo 60)
Frosinone 1 (D Ciofani 5) Att: 8,000

Empoli 1 (Maccarone 50)
Verona 0 Att: 7,816

Genoa 1 (De Maio 77)
Internazionale 0 Att: 22,781

Juventus 3 (Mandzukic 39, Dybala pen 52, 64)
Lazio 0 Att: 38,655

Palermo 2 (Vazquez pen 2, Struna 76)
Atalanta 2 (Borriello pen 11, Paletta 55)
Played behind closed doors

Roma 3 (Manolas 65, Totti 86, pen 89)
Torino 2 (Belotti pen 35, Martinez 80)
Att: 30,407

Sassuolo 0
Sampdoria 0 Att: 9,392

Udinese 2 (Zapata 2, Thereau 53)
Fiorentina 1 (Zarate 23) Att: 18,493

Apr 21 **Milan 0**
Carpi 0 Att: 28,801

Apr 23 **Internazionale 3** (Jovetic 36, 75, Eder 90+5)
Udinese 1 (Thereau 9) Att: 48,012

Apr 24 **Atalanta 1** (Borriello 55)
Chievo 0 Att: 15,914

Bologna 2 (Giaccherini 11, Floccari 63)
Genoa 0 Att: 17,099

Fiorentina 1 (Kalinic 81)
Juventus 2 (Mandzukic 39, Morata 83)
Att: 33,650

Frosinone 0
Palermo 2 (Gilardino 56, Trajkovski 90+2) Att: 6,095

Sampdoria 2 (Fernando 20, De Silvestri 78)
Lazio 1 (Djordjevic 3) Att: 20,560

Torino 1 (Bruno Peres 7)
Sassuolo 3 (Sansone 2, Peluso 75, Trotta 90+4) Att: 19,751

Apr 25 **Carpi 1** (Lasagna 85)
Empoli 0 Att: 7,667

Roma 1 (Nainggolan 89)
Napoli 0 Att: 35,273

Verona 2 (Pazzini pen 72, Siligardi 90+5)
Milan 1 (Menez 21) Att: 18,738

Apr 30 **Chievo 0**
Fiorentina 0 Att: 10,000

Udinese 1 (Felipe 47)
Torino 5 (Jansson 12, Acquah 45, Martinez 50, 83, Belotti 56) Att: 16,699

May 1 **Empoli 0**
Bologna 0 Att: 9,727

Juventus 2 (Hernanes 42, Zaza 80)
Carpi 0 Att: 40,316

Lazio 2 (Klose 8, Candreva pen 84)
Internazionale 0 Att: 20,000

Milan 3 (Bacca 50, Antonelli 74, Menez pen 90+2)
Frosinone 3 (Paganini 2, Kragl 44, Dionisi 54) Att: 35,936

Palermo 2 (Vazquez 19, Krsticic og 85)

Apr 19...Napoli v Bologna

Sampdoria 0 Att: 10,023

Sassuolo 1 (Pellegrini 58)
Verona 0 Att: 10,389

May 2 **Genoa 2** (Tachtsidis 13, Pavoletti 65)
Roma 3 (Salah 6, Totti 77, El Shaarawy 87) Att: 21,355

Napoli 2 (Higuain 10, 77)
Atalanta 1 (Freuler 85) Att: 24,514

May 7 **Bologna 0**
Milan 1 (Bacca pen 40) Att: 22,544

Internazionale 2 (Icardi 12, Perisic 40)
Empoli 1 (Pucciarelli 37) Att: 44,348

May 8 **Atalanta 1** (Bellini pen 19)
Udinese 1 (Zapata 10) Att: 19,380

Carpi 1 (Mbakogu 84)
Lazio 3 (Bisevac 23, Candreva 32, Klose 73) Att: 9,881

Fiorentina 0
Palermo 0 Att: 28,090

Frosinone 0
Sassuolo 1 (Politano 85) Att: 6,014

Roma 3 (Nainggolan 18, Rudiger 39, Pjanic 85)
Chievo 0 Att: 55,508

Sampdoria 0
Genoa 3 (Pavoletti 3, Suso 26, 74)
Att: 31,375

Torino 1 (Bruno Peres 66)
Napoli 2 (Higuain 12, Callejon 20)
Att: 23,095

Verona 2 (Toni pen 43, Viviani 55)
Juventus 1 (Dybala pen 90+4)
Att: 23,423

May 14 **Juventus 5** (Evra 6, Dybala pen 15, 37, Chiellini 77, Bonucci 85)
Sampdoria 0 Att: 39,272

Milan 1 (Bacca 86)
Roma 3 (Salah 19, El Shaarawy 59, Emerson 82) Att: 41,571

Napoli 4 (Hamsik 44, Higuain 52, 62, 71)
Frosinone 0 Att: 56,452

Sassuolo 3 (Politano 6, 39, Pellegrini 26)
Internazionale 1 (Palacio 31)
Att: 14,213

May 15 **Chievo 0**
Bologna 0 Att: 8,000

Empoli 2 (Maccarone 12, Zielinski 54)
Torino 1 (Obi 56) Att: 8,791

Genoa 1 (Pavoletti 58)
Atalanta 2 (D'Alessandro 52, Kurtic 82)
Att: 21,621

Lazio 2 (Lulic 2, Klose pen 74)
Fiorentina 4 (Vecino 31, 70, Bernardeschi 40, Tello 45) Att: 31,108

Palermo 3 (Vazquez 28, Maresca 51, Gilardino 64)
Verona 2 (Viviani 48, Pisano 84)
Att: 33,445

Udinese 1 (Di Natale pen 79)
Carpi 2 (Verdi pen 36, 38) Att: 20,456

Barca reign supreme

It's six out of eight Liga titles for the champions

The Spanish season didn't go right down to the wire, but almost. At half-time on the final day Real Madrid withdrew Cristiano Ronaldo at Riazor, having finally admitted defeat. They were 2-0 up and Ronaldo had scored both; the problem was that – a thousand kilometres away in Granada – Luis Suarez had scored twice too, finally putting him out of Ronaldo's reach and Barcelona out of Madrid's. La Liga was heading to the Camp Nou, for the sixth time in eight years.

When Suarez rolled in his third late in the game, it took him to 40 goals for the season, the first player other than Lionel Messi or Ronaldo to finish as top scorer since fellow Uruguayan Diego Forlan seven years earlier. It also took Barcelona to the title. It was, Gerard Pique said, a title that they had to "win twice". He said there was a point at which they seemed to have won it... and a point at which they seemed to have lost it too. In the end, they got it back.

At the start of April, winning the league seemed a foregone conclusion.

When Pique put Barca 1-0 up in the *classico*, they would have been 13 points ahead of Real Madrid if they had hung on, but instead they lost 2-1. They didn't win any of their next three games either and their lead at the top was gone. With five games to go, Barca were a point ahead of Madrid and only led Atletico on the head-to-head record.

All three teams prepared for a five-game sprint for the line, knowing that they could not afford a single slip-up. They had to win five out of five, Luis Enrique rightly predicted.

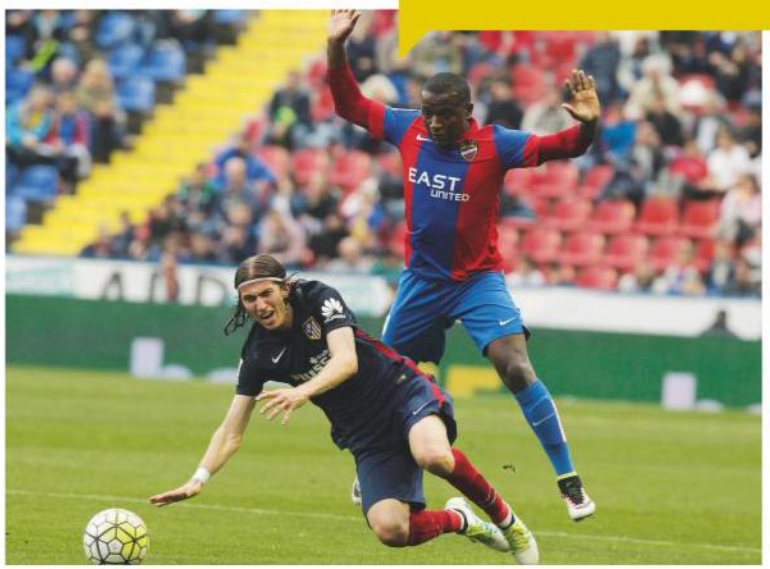
Atletico Madrid made it to the penultimate weekend of the season when they were surprisingly defeated by already relegated Levante; Madrid and Barcelona made it to the final day. Madrid did not slip up, but nor did Barcelona. Their response when it came to it was emphatic: five wins from five, an aggregate score of 24-0.

> "If winning the league is a bad year, let's pack up and go home"
> Barcelona coach Luis Enrique

Comically, on the morning after the league finished, *La Razon* opened on the headline: "Zidane, league champion." He was not, of course, but he was rightly proud of his team's ability to push Barcelona to the line, winning their last 12 games. And in truth there was not too much sadness among the Madrid squad as they travelled back from Galicia: they had always accepted that their fate was not in their own hands. The surprise was that they had managed to keep going so long.

Barcelona had hung on. "Twenty years ago we wouldn't have done," Pique said; back then, he added, their historic fatalism would have sunk them. But this is a different club now, one accustomed to success. Indeed, it was that fact that made it feel like "only" winning the league was a disappointing season. And, in the end, having been pushed made it feel more like an occasion than if they had walked to the title with, say, three weeks to spare.

The players travelled the city on an ▸



Stumble...Atletico Madrid and Filipe Luis (right) lost at relegated Levante

THE BREAKDOWN

TEAM OF THE SEASON

THE CUP FINAL

Barcelona beat Sevilla 2-0 but did it the hard way, with Javier Mascherano sent off in the 35th minute. After Ever Banega was sent off in second-half injury time, Lionel Messi setting up Jordi Alba and Neymar in extra-time.

RELEGATED & PROMOTED

Rayo Vallecano and Getafe lost a final-day battle with Sporting Gijon and joined already relegated Levante. Alaves and Leganes won automatic promotion, with Girona and Osasuna playing-off for the final promotion place.

Euro-bound...Villarreal coach Marcelino

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS

Barcelona, Real Madrid, Atletico and Sevilla qualified for the Champions League group stage, with Villarreal in the qualifying round. Athletic Bilbao and Celta Vigo will compete in the Europa League group stage.

More of the same...Barcelona celebrate another title

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Barcelona's Luis Suarez finished the season with more goals and more assists than anyone else in La Liga. His 40 goals finally broke Lionel Messi and Ronaldo's hold on the Pichichi award as league top scorer.

COACH OF THE SEASON
Canny tactician Marcelino has guided Villarreal back to the top table of Spanish football. Under his guidance, they have never finished lower than sixth, and will compete in next season's Champions League.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Twelve goals from DR Congo striker Cedric Bakambu helped to fire Villarreal into the Champions League places in his first season in La Liga after a move from Turkey.

open-topped bus, a celebration that had not originally been planned, not least as there was a Copa del Rey Final to come a week later, but that they had requested. This had to be treated like a big success.

"Over the season, the most consistent team takes the title and we deserved this," Enrique said. "People think not winning a trophy is disaster but we know how difficult it is to do.

"If winning the league is a bad year, let's pack up and go home. We've won six of eight leagues; some other teams find it harder."

Real Madrid for example, won just one of their last eight – although they did have the Champions League Final to come.

For Barcelona, getting knocked out of the Champions League by finalists Atletico hurt most. However, victory over Sevilla in the Spanish Cup Final meant they became the first side to win the double two years in a row for more than 60 years.

Barcelona needed extra-time to beat a Sevilla side that had won a third consecutive Europa League a few days earlier. The defeat at Atletico's Vicente Calderon stadium, thanks to goals from Jordi Alba and Neymar, was Sevilla's first in seven finals.

Meanwhile, in Seville, Getafe's players slowly boarded the bus in silence. In Madrid, Rayo Vallecano's players stood and looked sadly as their fans sang to them, down but not out. And in Gijon, Sporting's players went absolutely bonkers. The team that had never expected to make it into La Liga in the first place were staying there for another season at least and the celebrations went on and on.

When asked, "now what?", Sporting Gijon coach Abelardo Fernandez simply replied: "Now? Beer and cider."

On the final day, only one could remain and Sporting were the one. Getafe, Sporting and Rayo Vallecano were fighting to avoid two relegation spots. In the end, only the team that had its fate in its own hands failed to win: Getafe were beaten 2-1 by Betis, whose fans chanted Sporting's name, the club with whom they enjoy a kind of footballing "brotherhood", and Rayo beat Levante.

But it was not enough for them as Sporting beat Villarreal, who had nothing to play for. "We have to thank Betis," the Sporting boss admitted.

It was not a great season to be British in La Liga as David Moyes was sacked by Real Socieded and Gary Neville's time at Valencia was short-lived.

Both men faced difficult challenges at difficult clubs, and circumstances were often out of their control. But neither were entirely blameless and few lamented their sackings. In their absence, the improvement was not dramatic but Pako Ayestaran did manage as many wins in 11 days as Neville had done in his entire time in Valencia. They, and Real Sociedad under Eusebio, climbed to safety.

All in all, it was another great season for Spanish football, with success spread around much of the country.

Athletic Bilbao had the Spanish Super Cup, Sevilla had the Europa League, Real Madrid had the European Cup and Barcelona had a domestic double to go with the European Super Cup and the Club World Cup. WS

Toast...Sporting Gijon stay in the top flight

Sacked... Gary Neville

LA LIGA: 2015-16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	38	29	4	5	112	29	91
Real Madrid	38	28	6	4	110	34	90
Atletico Madrid	38	28	4	6	63	18	88
Villarreal	38	18	10	10	44	35	64
Athletic Bilbao	38	18	8	12	58	45	62
Celta Vigo	38	17	9	12	51	59	60
Sevilla	38	14	10	14	51	50	52
Malaga	38	12	12	14	38	35	48
Real Sociedad	38	13	9	16	45	48	48
Betis	38	11	12	15	34	52	45
Las Palmas	38	12	8	18	45	53	44
Valencia	38	11	11	16	46	48	44
Espanyol	38	12	7	19	40	74	43
Eibar	38	11	10	17	49	61	43
Dep La Coruna	38	8	18	12	45	61	42
Granada	38	10	9	19	46	69	39
Sporting Gijon	38	10	9	19	40	62	39
Rayo	38	9	11	18	52	73	38
Getafe	38	9	9	20	37	67	36
Levante	38	8	8	22	37	70	32

Cup clash...Barcelona beat Sevilla

SIX KEY MATCHES

SEP 23, 2015
Celta Vigo tore apart Barcelona, beating them 4-1 with goals from Nolito, Iago Aspas (two) and John Guidetti. It was so open that it could have ended 10-7.

NOV 21, 2015
In the first *classico* of the season Barca humiliated Real Madrid on home soil, winning 4-0 and condemning Rafa Benitez to the sack.

Classico...Barca keep out Real Madrid

MAR 13, 2016
In a humdinger of a game between two contenders for the Champions League places, Sevilla beat Villarreal 4-2, having been 2-1 down at half-time.

Humdinger...Villarreal and Sevilla

APR 2, 2016
Real Madrid kept the title race alive by coming back from a goal down to beat Barcelona 2-1 at Camp Nou in the season's second *classico*.

APR 20
Barcelona bounced back from a run of three defeats (including the second classico) by thrashing Deportivo 8-0 in La Coruna.

Eighth wonder...Barca's Marc Bartra

MAY 14
A hat-trick from Luis Suarez in a 3-0 win at Granada on the final weekend of the season sealed the title for Barcelona and took Suarez to 40 goals for the campaign.

Aug 21, 2015 **Malaga 0**
Sevilla 0 Att: 23,641

Aug 22 **Atletico Madrid 1** (Griezmann 16)
Las Palmas 0 Att: 39,735

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 22,301

Espanyol 1 (Sevilla 3)
Getafe 0 Att: 14,575

Rayo Vallecano 0
Valencia 0 Att: 9,442

Aug 23 **Athletic Bilbao 0**
Barcelona 1 (Suarez 54) Att: 44,772

Betis 1 (Ruben Castro 87)
Villarreal 1 (Soldado 31) Att: 37,996

Levante 1 (Verza 55)
Celta Vigo 2 (Orellana 41, Iago Aspas 77) Att: 10,346

Sporting Gijon 0
Real Madrid 0 Att: 27,691

Aug 24 **Granada 1** (Rochina 50)
Eibar 3 (Adrian 22, Escalante 35, Arruabarrena 67) Att: 14,833

Aug 28 **Villarreal 3** (Soldado 67, Bakambu 87, 90+3)
Espanyol 1 (Caicedo 5) Att: 16,722

Aug 29 **Barcelona 1** (Vermaelen 73)
Malaga 0 Att: 79,068

Celta Vigo 3 (Nolito pen 11, 50, Fontas 88)
Rayo Vallecano 0 Att: 16,344

Real Madrid 5 (Bale 2, 89, Rodriguez 39, 50, Benzema 47)
Betis 0 Att: 65,958

Aug 30...Sevilla v Atletico

Real Sociedad 0
Sporting Gijon 0 Att: 22,436

Aug 30 **Eibar 2** (Saul pen 34, Adrian 61)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 5,511

Getafe 1 (Lafita 80)
Granada 2 (El Arabi pen 26, Success 29) Att: 4,532

Las Palmas 0
Levante 0 Att: 18,832

Sevilla 0
Atletico Madrid 3 (Koke 35, Gabi 78, Martinez 84) Att: 38,986

Valencia 1 (Negredo 45)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Lucas Perez 39) Att: 42,000

Sep 11 **Levante 1** (Camarasa 58)
Sevilla 1 (N'Zonzi 12) Att: 14,775

Sep 12 **Atletico Madrid 1** (Fernando Torres 51)
Barcelona 2 (Neymar 55, Messi 77) Att: 51,691

Betis 1 (Ruben Castro 41)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 37,909

Espanyol 0
Real Madrid 6 (Cristiano Ronaldo 7, pen 17, 20, 61, 81, Benzema 28) Att: 27,395

Sporting Gijon 0
Valencia 1 (Paco Alcacer 90+1) Att: 23,133

Sep 13 **Athletic Bilbao 3** (Aduriz 6, 84, Raul Garcia 24)
Getafe 1 (Velazquez 70) Att: 39,107

Celta Vigo 3 (Orellana pen 13, Wass 18, Nolito 48)
Las Palmas 3 (Araujo 23, Hernandez og 61, David Simon 74) Att: 19,044

Granada 1 (Fran Rico 74)
Villarreal 3 (Manu Trigueros 49, Bakambu 51, Samu Garcia 90+1) Att: 13,996

Malaga 0
Eibar 0 Att: 19,937

Sep 14 **Rayo Vallecano 1** (Embarba 27)
Deportivo La Coruna 3 (Borges 7, Luis Alberto 28, Lucas Perez 61) Att: 11,803

Sep 18 **Getafe 1** (Scepovic 2)
Malaga 0 Att: 5,737

Sep 19 **Eibar 0**
Atletico Madrid 2 (Correa 62, Fernando Torres 77) Att: 5,128

Real Madrid 1 (Benzema 55)
Granada 0 Att: 61,946

Real Sociedad 2 (Agirretxe 20, Jonathas 86)
Espanyol 3 (Gerard Moreno pen 44, Roco 71, Perez 90) Att: 17,443

Valencia 0
Betis 0 Att: 40,656

Sep 20 **Barcelona 4** (Bartra 50, Neymar 56, Messi pen 61, 90)
Levante 1 (Victor 66) Att: 74,383

Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Juanfran 16, Luis Alberto 28)
Sporting Gijon 3 (Sanabria 4, 8, Alex Menendez 34) Att: 24,799

Las Palmas 0
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Javi Guerra 42) Att: 19,153

Sevilla 1 (Llorente 54)
Celta Vigo 2 (Nolito 15, Wass 26) Att: 35,771

Villarreal 3 (Bruno pen 43, Mario 67, Leo Baptistao 80)
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Aduriz 90+2) Att: 18,165

Sep 22 **Atletico Madrid 2** (Griezmann 4, 90)
Getafe 0 Att: 37,077

Espanyol 1 (Victor Alvarez 18)
Valencia 0 Att: 15,715

Granada 0
Real Sociedad 3 (Agirretxe 7, 33, 79) Att: 12,711

Sep 23 **Athletic Bilbao 1** (Sabin 67)
Real Madrid 2 (Benzema 19, 70) Att: 43,487

Celta Vigo 4 (Nolito 26, Iago Aspas 30, 56, Guidetti 83)
Barcelona 1 (Neymar 80) Att: 23,311

Las Palmas 2 (Roque Mesa 30, Alcaraz 76)
Sevilla 0 Att: 19,942

Levante 2 (Morales 52, Deyverson 90+3)
Eibar 2 (Borja Baston 10, 48) Att: 10,929

Malaga 0
Villarreal 1 (Tissone og 71) Att: 18,767

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Trashorras pen 40, Javi Guerra 48)
Sporting Gijon 1 (Jony 50) Att: 10,941

Sep 24 **Betis 1** (Petros 59)
Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Cartabia 54, Fajr 72) Att: 36,093

Sep 25 **Valencia 1** (Mustafi 26)
Granada 0 Att: 37,158

Nov 7...Celta Vigo v Valencia

Sep 26 **Barcelona 2** (Suarez 25, 54)
Las Palmas 1 (Jonathan Viera 88) Att: 73,017

Eibar 1 (Borja Baston 3)
Celta Vigo 1 (Iago Aspas 76) Att: 4,862

Real Madrid 0
Malaga 0 Att: 75,361

Sevilla 3 (Gameiro 23, N'Zonzi 45+1, Konoplyanka 86)
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Bebe 51, Javi Guerra 68) Att: 33,779

Villarreal 1 (Leo Baptistao 14)
Atletico Madrid 0 Att: 18,443

Sep 27 **Deportivo La Coruna 3** (Alvaro og 14, Lucas Perez 27, 47)
Espanyol 0 Att: 21,753

Getafe 3 (Alvaro Vazquez 81, 90+2, Buendia 90+1)
Levante 0 Att: 5,934

Real Sociedad 0
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 26,114

Sporting Gijon 1 (Carlos Castro 17)
Betis 2 (Joaquin 46, Ruben Castro 57) Att: 23,250

Oct 2 **Celta Vigo 0**
Getafe 0 Att: 18,154

Oct 3 **Espanyol 1** (Caicedo 62)
Sporting Gijon 2 (Halilovic 10, Alex Menendez 90+2) Att: 16,519

Granada 1 (Piti 65)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Fajr 25) Att: 14,228

Las Palmas 0
Eibar 2 (Saul 7, Borja Baston 62) Att: 18,577

Malaga 3 (Charles 4, 7, 89)
Real Sociedad 1 (Agirretxe 14) Att: 17,315

Sevilla 2 (Krohn-Dehli 52, Iborra 58)
Barcelona 1 (Neymar pen 74) Att: 39,415

Oct 4 **Athletic Bilbao 3** (Laporte 34, Susaeta 60, Aduriz 69)
Valencia 1 (Parejo 20) Att: 41,508

Atletico Madrid 1 (Vietto 83)
Real Madrid 1 (Benzema 9) Att: 51,933

Levante 1 (Deyverson 83)
Villarreal 0 Att: 16,059

Rayo Vallecano 0
Betis 2 (Westermann 21, Ruben Castro 61) Att: 11,719

Oct 17 **Barcelona 5** (Neymar pen 22, pen 32, 69, 70, Suarez 77)
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Javi Guerra 15, Jozabed 86) Att: 73,805

Betis 1 (Rennella 89)
Espanyol 3 (Roco 4, Caicedo 51, Victor Sanchez 55) Att: 30,187

Eibar 1 (Borja Baston 8)
Sevilla 1 (Gameiro 71) Att: 5,462

Real Madrid 3 (Marcelo 27, Cristiano Ronaldo 30, Jese 81)
Levante 0 Att: 63,476

Valencia 3 (Charles og 19, Andre Gomes 33, Dani Parejo pen 88)
Malaga 0 Att: 35,819

Oct 18 **Deportivo La Coruna 2** (Lucas Perez 80, Arribas 89)
Athletic Bilbao 2 (Williams 30, Aduriz 63) Att: 25,239

Getafe 4 (Victor Rodriguez 3, Sarabia 11, Scepovic 86, 90+3)
Las Palmas 0 Att: 5,797

Real Sociedad 0
Atletico Madrid 2 (Griezmann 9, Ferreira Carrasco 90+1) Att: 25,494

Villarreal 1 (Denis Suarez 67)
Celta Vigo 2 (Orellana 41, Nolito 90) Att: 17,436

Oct 19 **Sporting Gijon 3** (Espinosa 8, Nacho Cases 88, Guerrero 90+6)
Granada 3 (Piti 21, Success 41, El Arabi 73) Att: 19,749

Oct 23 **Rayo Vallecano 3** (Trashorras pen 36, Javi Guerra 76, 78)
Espanyol 0 Att: 10,431

Oct 24 **Celta Vigo 1** (Nolito 85)
Real Madrid 3 (Cristiano Ronaldo 8, Danilo 23, Marcelo 90+5) Att: 24,519

Granada 1 (Foulquier 3)
Betis 1 (Ruben Castro pen 40) Att: 18,358

Malaga 2 (Tighadouini 62, Juan Carlos 85)
Deportivo La Coruna 0 Att: 20,739

Sevilla 5 (Gameiro 35, 45, pen 60, Banega pen 50, Konoplyanka pen 81)
Getafe 0 Att: 34,658

Oct 25 **Atletico Madrid 2** (Martinez 32, Ferreira Carrasco 40)
Valencia 1 (Paco Alcacer pen 72) Att: 47,075

Barcelona 3 (Suarez 21, 48, 85)
Eibar 1 (Borja Baston 10) Att: 76,622

Las Palmas 0
Villarreal 0 Att: 18,284

Levante 0
Real Sociedad 4 (Vela 8, 84, Agirretxe 35, Illarramendi 82) Att: 14,228

Oct 26 **Athletic Bilbao 3** (Susaeta 29, Aduriz 42, 67)
Sporting Gijon 0 Att: 40,000

Oct 30 **Deportivo La Coruna 1** (Lucas Perez 77)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Tiago 34) Att: 23,609

Oct 31 **Getafe 0**
Barcelona 2 (Suarez 37, Neymar 58) Att: 10,009

Real Madrid 3 (Isco 4, Cristiano Ronaldo 14, Jese 43)
Las Palmas 1 (Hernan 38) Att: 69,822

Real Sociedad 2 (Agirretxe 11, 37)
Celta Vigo 3 (Iago Aspas 17, 56, Hernandez 89) Att: 19,270

Valencia 3 (Paco Alcacer pen 64, Feghouli 72, Bakkali 80)
Levante 0 Att: 39,147

Villarreal 2 (Mario 25, Bakambu 61)
Sevilla 1 (Llorente 76) Att: 15,918

Nov 1 **Betis 1** (Ruben Castro pen 67)
Athletic Bilbao 3 (Williams 8, 45, Raul Garcia 87) Att: 24,879

Eibar 1 (Llorente og 21)
Rayo Vallecano 0 Att: 5,363

Espanyol 1 (Caicedo 90+4)
Granada 1 (Babin 58) Att: 16,684

Sporting Gijon 1 (Halilovic 27)
Malaga 0 Att: 22,766

Nov 6 **Las Palmas 2** (Jonathan Viera 28, Araujo 51)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 17,796

Nov 7 **Celta Vigo 1** (A Fernandez 24)
Valencia 5 (Paco Alcacer 13, 46, Parejo 45, 64, Mustafi 79) Att: 20,541

Eibar 3 (Enrich 16, 29, Saul pen 61)
Getafe 1 (Victor Rodriguez 22) Att: 5,333

Levante 1 (Camarasa 53)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Lucas Perez 22) Att: 13,695

Malaga 0
Betis 1 (Ruben Castro 64) Att: 23,803

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Javi Guerra 3, 10)
Granada 1 (Babin 53) Att: 9,921

Nov 8 **Athletic Bilbao 2** (Williams 8, Raul Garcia 64)
Espanyol 1 (Perez 51) Att: 42,204

Atletico Madrid 1 (Griezmann 90+3)
Sporting Gijon 0 Att: 44,858

Barcelona 3 (Neymar 60, 85, Suarez pen 70)
Villarreal 0 Att: 72,585

Sevilla 3 (Immobile 36, Banega 61, Llorente 74)
Real Madrid 2 (Sergio Ramos 22, Rodriguez 90+3) Att: 40,395

Nov 21 **Deportivo La Coruna 2** (Lucas Perez 23, Jonny og 90+3)
Celta Vigo 0 Att: 29,666

Espanyol 2 (Perez 6, 20)
Malaga 0 Att: 12,461

Real Madrid 0
Barcelona 4 (Suarez 11, 74, Neymar 39, Iniesta 53) Att: 80,148

Real Sociedad 2 (Agirretxe 73, Xabi Prieto 77)
Sevilla 0 Att: 19,839

Valencia 1 (Paco Alcacer 8)
Las Palmas 1 (Jonathan Viera 57) Att: 32,125

Nov 22 **Betis 0**
Atletico Madrid 1 (Koke 7) Att: 39,714

Granada 2 (Laporte og 5, Success 59)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 13,031

Sporting Gijon 0
Levante 3 (Deyverson 18, 44, Feddal 27) Att: 19,536

Villarreal 1 (Jaume Costa 85)
Eibar 1 (Enrich 27) Att: 15,788

Nov 23 **Getafe 1** (Jozabed og 58)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Jozabed 73) Att: 5,088

Nov 27 **Levante 0**
Betis 1 (Ruben Castro 4) Att: 13,957

Nov 28 **Atletico Madrid 1** (Griezmann 3)
Espanyol 0 Att: 44,893

Barcelona 4 (Neymar 22, 53, Suarez 41, Messi 90+1)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 74,020

Celta Vigo 2 (Orellana 15, Nolito 84)

Sporting Gijon 1 (Carlos Castro 65) Att: 18,039

Las Palmas 0
Deportivo La Coruna 2 (David Simon og 19, Lucas Perez 90+1) Att: 19,146

Malaga 2 (Charles 45, Fornals 57)
Granada 2 (El Arabi 83, Rochina 86) Att: 22,931

Nov 29 **Eibar 0**
Real Madrid 2 (Bale 43, Cristiano Ronaldo pen 82) Att: 5,892

Getafe 2 (Lafita 21, Alvaro Vazquez 51)
Villarreal 0 Att: 5,903

Rayo Vallecano 0
Athletic Bilbao 3 (Aduriz 1, pen 24, 60) Att: 13,205

Sevilla 1 (Escudero 50)
Valencia 0 Att: 34,914

Dec 5 **Betis 1** (Jorge Molina 82)
Celta Vigo 1 (Bongonda 25) Att: 33,762

Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Lucas Perez 22)
Sevilla 1 (Iborra 76) Att: 25,013

Granada 0
Atletico Madrid 2 (Godin 20, Griezmann 76) Att: 15,872

Real Madrid 4 (Benzema 4, 16, Bale 35, Cristiano Ronaldo 38)
Getafe 1 (Alexis 70) Att: 64,897

Valencia 1 (Santi Mina 86)
Barcelona 1 (Suarez 59) Att: 46,799

Dec 6 **Athletic Bilbao 0**
Malaga 0 Att: 41,835

Real Sociedad 2 (Agirretxe 10, 90)
Eibar 1 (Borja Baston 4) Att: 23,461

Sporting Gijon 3 (Sanabria 17, 78, 84)
Las Palmas 1 (El Zhar 38) Att: 22,665

Villarreal 2 (Bakambu 69, 86)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Jozabed 41) Att: 16,101

Dec 7 **Espanyol 1** (Gerard Moreno 56)
Levante 1 (Lerma 6) Att: 14,875

Dec 11 **Getafe 1** (Sarabia 46)
Real Sociedad 1 (Agirretxe 67) Att: 5,654

Dec 12 **Barcelona 2** (Messi 39, Rakitic 62)
Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Lucas Perez 77, Bergantinos 86) Att: 65,531

Celta Vigo 1 (Iago Aspas 42)
Espanyol 0 Att: 16,498

Las Palmas 1 (Willian Jose 90+3)
Betis 0 Att: 16,701

Levante 1 (Simao 66)
Granada 2 (Penaranda 50, 88) Att: 12,284

Sevilla 2 (Gameiro pen 75, 80)
Sporting Gijon 0 Att: 29,211

Dec 13 **Atletico Madrid 2** (Saul 45+2, Griezmann 67)
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Laporte 27) Att: 44,417

Eibar 1 (Enrich 45)
Valencia 1 (Junca og 85) Att: 5,187

Rayo Vallecano 1 (Javi Guerra 6)
Malaga 2 (Charles 59, Cop 87) Att: 9,301

Villarreal 1 (Soldado 8)
Real Madrid 0 Att: 19,477

Dec 19 **Betis 0**
Sevilla 0 Att: 50,073

Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Lucas Perez pen 41, Arribas 73)
Eibar 0 Att: 19,281

Espanyol 1 (Caicedo 67)
Las Palmas 0 Att: 17,121

Valencia 2 (Paco Alcacer 15, Santi Mina 35)
Getafe 2 (Sarabia 10, Lafita 22) Att: 31,598

Dec 20 **Athletic Bilbao 2** (San Jose 55, Williams 82)
Levante 0 Att: 39,471

Granada 0
Celta Vigo 2 (Orellana 21, Iago Aspas 45) Att: 14,594

Malaga 1 (Charles 86)
Atletico Madrid 0 Att: 19,086

Real Madrid 10 (Danilo 3, Bale 25, 41, 61, 70, Cristiano Ronaldo pen 30, 53, Benzema 48, 79, 90)
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Amaya 10, Jozabed 12) Att: 61,564

Real Sociedad 0
Villarreal 2 (Denis Suarez 27, 88) Att: 21,949

Dec 30 **Barcelona 4** (Westermann og 29, Messi 33, Suarez 46, 83)
Betis 0 Att: 83,630

Celta Vigo 0
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Raul Garcia 71) Att: 19,092

Eibar 2 (Keko 55, Borja Baston 62)
Sporting Gijon 0 Att: 5,471

Getafe 0
Deportivo La Coruna 0 Att: 5,667

Las Palmas 4 (Tana 32, Araujo 50, Jonathan Viera pen 80, Lomban og 90+2)
Granada 1 (Penaranda 56) Att: 18,973

Levante 0
Malaga 1 (Duda 78) Att: 12,094

Rayo Vallecano 0
Atletico Madrid 2 (Correa 88, Griezmann 90) Att: 12,315

Real Madrid 3 (Cristiano Ronaldo pen 42, 67, Lucas Vazquez 86)
Real Sociedad 1 (Bruma 49) Att: 69,896

Sevilla 2 (Immobile 16, Banega 41)
Espanyol 0 Att: 35,544

Dec 31 **Villarreal 1** (Bruno 64)
Valencia 0 Att: 18,526

Jan 2, 2016 **Atletico Madrid 1** (Partey 81)
Levante 0 Att: 37,461

Espanyol 0
Barcelona 0 Att: 28,975

Malaga 2 (Charles 8, Albentosa 26)
Celta Vigo 0 Att: 17,635

Jan 3 **Athletic Bilbao 2** (Aduriz pen 17, Williams 66)
Las Palmas 2 (Vicente Gomez 62, Tana 81) Att: 41,474

Betis 0
Eibar 4 (Capa 3, Keko 17, Adrian 71, Borja Baston 82) Att: 33,609

Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Luis Alberto 48)
Villarreal 2 (Bruno 36, pen 90+5) Att: 23,815

Granada 2 (Success 17, Penaranda 37)
Sevilla 1 (Vitolo 45+1) Att: 13,469

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Llorente 15, Jozabed 51)
Real Sociedad 2 (Elustondo 27, Bruma 63) Att: 10,756

Valencia 2 (Parejo pen 45+1, Paco Alcacer 83)
Real Madrid 2 (Benzema 16, Bale 82) Att: 47,185

Jan 4 **Sporting Gijon 1** (Sanabria 16)
Getafe 2 (Cala 69, Sarabia 71) Att: 20,948

Jan 9 **Barcelona 4** (Messi 8, 14, 58, Neymar 83)
Granada 0 Att: 70,720

Getafe 1 (Alvaro Vazquez 57)
Betis 0 Att: 6,940

Levante 2 (Deyverson 72, Morales 81)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Pablo Hernandez 83) Att: 10,589

Real Madrid 5 (Benzema 15, 90+1, Bale 22, 49, 63)
Deportivo La Coruna 0 Att: 71,267

Sevilla 2 (Gameiro 24, pen 59)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 35,388

Jan 10 **Celta Vigo 0**
Atletico Madrid 2 (Griezmann 49, Ferreira Carrasco 80) Att: 13,550

Eibar 2 (Inui 15, Borja Baston pen 74)
Espanyol 1 (Joan Jordan 22) Att: 4,587

Las Palmas 1 (Tana 51)
Malaga 1 (Santa Cruz 72) Att: 21,760

Real Sociedad 2 (Jonathas 79, 82)
Valencia 0 Att: 24,217

Villarreal 2 (Bakambu 26, 51)
Sporting Gijon 0 Att: 16,705

Jan 16 **Celta Vigo 4** (Guidetti 35, 40, Iago Aspas 57, Orellana 84)
Levante 3 (Deyverson 63, Pedro Lopez 65, Morales 89) Att: 16,028

Real Sociedad 1 (Xabi Prieto pen 75)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Luis Alberto 26) Att: 16,576

Sevilla 2 (Gameiro 40, 42)
Malaga 1 (Charles 72) Att: 34,371

Villarreal 0
Betis 0 Att: 15,586

Jan 17 **Barcelona 6** (Messi pen 7, Neymar 31, Suarez 47, 68, 82, Rakitic 62)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 66,234

Getafe 3 (Pedro Leon 29, Sarabia 37, Moi Gomez 90+4)
Espanyol 1 (Perez 26) Att: 6,473

Las Palmas 0
Atletico Madrid 3 (Filipe Luis 17, Griezmann 68, 89) Att: 28,414

Real Madrid 5 (Bale 7, Cristiano Ronaldo 9, 18, Benzema 12, 41)
Sporting Gijon 1 (Isma Lopez 62) Att: 70,365

Valencia 2 (Negredo 55, Paco Alcacer 88)
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Jozabed 15, Llorente 69) Att: 35,100

Jan 18 **Eibar 5** (Inui 35, Enrich 38, 68, Borja Baston 74, 79)
Granada 1 (El Arabi 65) Att: 4,215

Jan 22 **Sporting Gijon 5** (Carmona 1, Ndi 9, Sanabria 44, 53, 81)
Real Sociedad 1 (Vela 37) Att: 23,032

Jan 23 **Espanyol 2** (Caicedo 4, Gerard Moreno 40)
Villarreal 2 (Manu Trigueros 24, Musacchio 88) Att: 16,251

Granada 3 (Fran Rico 27, El Arabi 36, Rochina 77)
Getafe 2 (Scepovic 71, Moi Gomez 74) Att: 12,909

Malaga 1 (Juanpi 32)
Barcelona 2 (Munir 2, Messi 51) Att: 27,625

Rayo Vallecano 3 (Fedor 21, Tito 26, Jozabed 36)
Celta Vigo 0 Att: 10,507

Jan 24 **Athletic Bilbao 5** (Aduriz 12, 52, Sabin 27, Laporte 40, Dos Santos og 80)
Eibar 2 (Borja Baston 4, pen 50) Att: 43,750

Atletico Madrid 0
Sevilla 0 Att: 49,946

Betis 1 (Cejudo 7)
Real Madrid 1 (Benzema 71) Att: 45,162

Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Lucas Perez 27)
Valencia 1 (Negredo 90+3) Att: 23,782

Jan 25 **Levante 3** (Morales 25, 63, Deyverson 47)
Las Palmas 2 (Willian Jose 49, 66) Att: 10,805

Jan 30 **Barcelona 2** (Messi 30, Suarez 38)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Koke 10) Att: 93,011

Eibar 1 (Borja Baston 90+4)
Malaga 2 (Juanpi 45, Santa Cruz 90+1) Att: 5,252

Getafe 0
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Williams 24) Att: 9,431

Real Sociedad 2 (Xabi Prieto 18, Inigo Martinez 33)
Betis 1 (Ruben Castro 51) Att: 15,839

Villarreal 1 (Bruno pen 55)
Granada 0 Att: 15,090

Jan 31 **Las Palmas 2** (Jonathan Viera pen 33, Willian Jose 90)
Celta Vigo 1 (Bongonda 5) Att: 18,439

Real Madrid 6 (Benzema 7, Cristiano Ronaldo pen 12, 45, 82, Rodriguez 16, O Duarte og 86)
Espanyol 0 Att: 65,768

Sevilla 3 (Gameiro 1, Iborra 47, Konoplyanka 76)
Levante 1 (Rossi 55) Att: 33,933

Valencia 0
Sporting Gijon 1 (Sanabria pen 50) Att: 35,367

Feb 1 **Deportivo La Coruna 2** (Lucas Perez 19, Fajr 46)
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Fedor 8, Jozabed 23) Att: 19,055

Feb 5 **Malaga 3** (Juanpi 9, Atsu 23, Charles 43)
Getafe 0 Att: 20,414

Feb 6 **Athletic Bilbao 0**
Villarreal 0 Att: 41,101

Atletico Madrid 3 (Gimenez 56, Saul 63, Fernando Torres 90+1)
Eibar 1 (Keko 46) Att: 39,979

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Fedor 3, Bebe 74)
Las Palmas 0 Att: 11,427

Sporting Gijon 1 (Jony 32)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Luis Alberto 41) Att: 20,703

Feb 7 **Betis 1** (Ruben Castro 49)
Valencia 0 Att: 39,261

Celta Vigo 1 (Beauvue 64)
Sevilla 1 (Daniel Carrico 43) Att: 16,169

Granada 1 (El Arabi 60)
Real Madrid 2 (Benzema 30, Modric 85) Att: 17,060

Levante 0
Barcelona 2 (David Navarro og 21, Suarez 90+2) Att: 22,424

Feb 8 **Espanyol 0**
Real Sociedad 5 (Jonathas 5, 90, Vela 8, Oiarzabal 52, Reyes 55) Att: 14,155

Feb 12 **Sporting Gijon 2** (Guerrero 5, Halilovic 45+1)
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Fedor 39, Jozabed 58) Att: 21,789

Feb 13 **Deportivo La Coruna 2** (Bergantinos 15, Fajr 51)
Betis 2 (Musonda 20, Vargas 37) Att: 16,185

Real Madrid 4 (Cristiano Ronaldo 3, 87, Rodriguez 37, Kroos 45)
Athletic Bilbao 2 (Eraso 10, Elustondo 90) Att: 70,100

Valencia 2 (Negredo 71, Cheryshev 76)
Espanyol 1 (O Duarte 52) Att: 34,794

Villarreal 1 (Soldado 18)
Malaga 0 Att: 16,300

Feb 14 **Barcelona 6** (Messi 28, Suarez 59, 75, 81, Rakitic 84, Neymar 90+1)
Celta Vigo 1 (Guidetti pen 39) Att: 72,580

Eibar 2 (Borja Baston 37, Adrian 58)
Levante 0 Att: 4,766

Getafe 0
Atletico Madrid 1 (Fernando Torres 2) Att: 8,463

Real Sociedad 3 (Oiarzabal 21, 60, Jonathas 45)
Granada 0 Att: 19,526

Sevilla 2 (Banega 69, Gameiro 75)
Las Palmas 0 Att: 30,548

Feb 17 **Sporting Gijon 1** (Carlos Castro 27)
Barcelona 3 (Messi 25, 31, Suarez 67) Att: 28,140

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Feb 19 **Levante 3** (Morales 10, Rossi pen 43, Joan Verdu 81)
Getafe 0 Att: 11,847

Feb 20 **Betis 1** (Pezzella 67)
Sporting Gijon 1 (Carlos Castro 65) Att: 41,345

Celta Vigo 3 (Guidetti 31, 69, Jonny 39)
Eibar 2 (Saul pen 84, Inui 87) Att: 14,725

Espanyol 1 (Marco Asensio 52)
Deportivo La Coruna 0 Att: 28,455

Las Palmas 1 (Willian Jose 10)
Barcelona 2 (Suarez 6, Neymar 39) Att: 26,817

Feb 21 **Athletic Bilbao 0**
Real Sociedad 1 (Jonathas 17) Att: 47,603

Atletico Madrid 0
Villarreal 0 Att: 45,323

Granada 1 (Edgar 90+3)
Valencia 2 (Parejo 55, Santi Mina 90) Att: 14,735

Malaga 1 (Albentosa 66)
Real Madrid 1 (Cristiano Ronaldo 33) Att: 28,290

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Manucho 43, Fedor 62)
Sevilla 2 (N'Zonzi 10, Iborra 20)

Att: 12,375

Feb 26 **Eibar 0**
Las Palmas 1 (Bigas 45+1) Att: 5,112

Feb 27 **Betis 2** (Ruben Castro 14, 28)
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Manucho 48, 51)
Att: 35,666

Getafe 0
Celta Vigo 1 (Nolito 71) Att: 5,652

Real Madrid 0
Atletico Madrid 1 (Griezmann 53)
Att: 79,436

Real Sociedad 1 (Agirretxe 81)
Malaga 1 (Cop 56) Att: 12,783

Sporting Gijon 2 (Carlos Castro 20, 62)
Espanyol 4 (Burgui 41, Gerard Moreno 48, 58, Luis Hernandez og 80)
Att: 22,555

Feb 28 **Barcelona 2** (Messi 31, Pique 48)
Sevilla 1 (Vitolo 20) Att: 79,684

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Granada 1 (El Arabi pen 24) Att: 23,616

Valencia 0
Athletic Bilbao 3 (Sabin 73, Muniain 77, Aduriz 80) Att: 36,576

Villarreal 3 (Leo Baptistao 12, Samu Castillejo 30, Adrian 48)
Levante 0 Att: 16,619

Mar 1 **Atletico Madrid 3** (Reyes og 8, Saul 46, Griezmann pen 61)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 35,621

Las Palmas 4 (Willian Jose 7, Jonathan Viera pen 28, Tana 49, 83)
Getafe 0 Att: 15,819

Mar 2 **Athletic Bilbao 4** (Muniain 13, Aduriz 36, 53, 60)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Oriol Riera 51)
Att: 37,292

Celta Vigo 0
Villarreal 0 Att: 15,372

Levante 1 (Deyverson 39)
Real Madrid 3 (Cristiano Ronaldo pen 34, Marino og 38, Isco 90+2)
Att: 19,725

Malaga 1 (Cop 14)
Valencia 2 (Kameni og 41, Cheryshev 49) Att: 20,556

Sevilla 1 (Llorente 11)
Eibar 0 Att: 29,627

Mar 3 **Espanyol 0**
Betis 3 (Ruben Castro 10, Pezzella 20, Vargas 71) Att: 23,714

Granada 2 (El Arabi pen 72, Success 90+3)
Sporting Gijon 0 Att: 15,761

Rayo Vallecano 1 (Manucho 57)
Barcelona 5 (Rakitic 22, Messi 23, 53, 72, Arda 86) Att: 14,430

Mar 5 **Deportivo La Coruna 3** (Borges 43, Cartabia 69, Lucas Perez 80)
Malaga 3 (Charles 29, Camacho 63, Arribas og 89) Att: 18,446

Getafe 1 (Velazquez 86)
Sevilla 1 (Banega 79) Att: 6,754

Real Madrid 7 (Pepe 41, Cristiano Ronaldo 50, 58, 64, 76, Jese 77, Bale 81)
Celta Vigo 1 (Iago Aspas 62)
Att: 68,467

Villarreal 0
Las Palmas 1 (David Garcia 30)
Att: 15,790

Mar 6 **Betis 2** (N'Diaye 85, Ruben Castro 90+5)
Granada 0 Att: 43,174

Eibar 0
Barcelona 4 (Munir 8, Messi 41, pen 76, Suarez 84) Att: 6,100

Real Sociedad 1 (Reyes 14)
Levante 1 (Deyverson 24) Att: 18,620

Sporting Gijon 0
Athletic Bilbao 2 (Benat 27, De Marcos 59) Att: 23,605

Valencia 1 (Cheryshev 28)
Atletico Madrid 3 (Griezmann 24, Fernando Torres 72, Ferreira Carrasco 85) Att: 40,819

Mar 7 **Espanyol 2** (Abraham 12, Perez 77)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Bebe 67)
Att: 22,638

Mar 11 **Malaga 1** (Juanpi 25)
Sporting Gijon 0 Att: 19,680

Mar 12 **Atletico Madrid 3** (Saul 18, Griezmann 60, Correa 83)
Deportivo La Coruna 0 Att: 38,943

Barcelona 6 (Juan Rodriguez og 8, Munir 19, Neymar 32, 51, Messi 40, Arda 57)
Getafe 0 Att: 85,862

Celta Vigo 1 (Iago Aspas 16)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 17,768

Rayo Vallecano 1 (Ze Castro 7)
Eibar 1 (Escalante 36) Att: 10,399

Mar 13 **Athletic Bilbao 3** (Sabin 34, 50, Mikel Rico 44)
Betis 1 (Ruben Castro 85) Att: 42,563

Las Palmas 1 (Willian Jose 87)
Real Madrid 2 (Sergio Ramos 24, Casemiro 89) Att: 25,846

Levante 1 (Rossi 64)
Valencia 0 Att: 17,688

Sevilla 4 (Iborra 23, Victor Ruiz og 51, Konoplyanka 65, Reyes 90+1)
Villarreal 2 (Bakambu 29, 37)
Att: 35,145

Mar 14 **Granada 1** (Rochina 40)
Espanyol 1 (Miguel Lopes og 82)
Att: 15,213

Mar 18 **Getafe 1** (Velazquez 7)
Eibar 1 (Borja Baston 87) Att: 6,341

Mar 19 **Betis 0**
Malaga 1 (Camacho 82) Att: 29,442

Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Luis Alberto 43, Marino og 85)
Levante 1 (Rossi 50) Att: 23,920

Granada 2 (El Arabi 11, pen 54)
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Pablo Hernandez 45+2, Ze Castro 87) Att: 17,406

Real Sociedad 0
Las Palmas 1 (Willian Jose 39)
Att: 18,941

Sporting Gijon 2 (Sanabria 79, Carlos Castro 89)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Griezmann 29)
Att: 24,622

Mar 20 **Espanyol 2** (Diop 54, Caicedo 57)
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Eraso 20) Att: 18,340

Real Madrid 4 (Benzema 6, Cristiano Ronaldo 64, Bale 66, Jese 86)
Sevilla 0 Att: 68,782

Apr 16...Getafe v Real Madrid

Valencia 0
Celta Vigo 2 (Guidetti 80, Hugo Mallo 84) Att: 32,909

Villarreal 2 (Bakambu 57, Mathieu og 63)
Barcelona 2 (Rakitic 20, Neymar pen 41) Att: 23,450

Apr 1 **Rayo Vallecano 2** (Javi Guerra 15, Fedor 71)
Getafe 0 Att: 12,581

Apr 2 **Atletico Madrid 5** (Fernando Torres 37, Griezmann 42, 81, Juanfran 65, Partey 90+1)
Betis 1 (Ruben Castro 79) Att: 46,506

Barcelona 1 (Pique 56)
Real Madrid 2 (Benzema 62, Cristiano Ronaldo 85) Att: 98,902

Celta Vigo 1 (Nolito 30)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Borges 21)
Att: 21,254

Las Palmas 2 (Jonathan Viera pen 50, Mustafi og 63)
Valencia 1 (Rodrigo 3) Att: 26,950

Apr 3 **Athletic Bilbao 1** (Lekue 28)
Granada 1 (Penaranda 77) Att: 40,497

Eibar 1 (Capa 22)
Villarreal 2 (Adrian 35, Soldado 50)
Att: 5,183

Malaga 1 (Cop pen 45)
Espanyol 1 (Diop 11) Att: 25,368

Sevilla 1 (Gameiro pen 51)
Real Sociedad 2 (Bergara 2, Krychowiak og 34) Att: 32,163

Apr 4 **Levante 0**
Sporting Gijon 0 Att: 9,225

Apr 8 **Granada 0**
Malaga 0 Att: 18,004

Apr 9 **Betis 1** (Ruben Castro 81)
Levante 0 Att: 33,392

Espanyol 1 (Diop 29)
Atletico Madrid 3 (Fernando Torres 35, Griezmann 58, Koke 89) Att: 24,024

Real Madrid 4 (Rodriguez 5, Lucas Vazquez 18, Cristiano Ronaldo 19, Jese 39)
Eibar 0 Att: 66,214

Real Sociedad 1 (Oiarzabal 5)
Barcelona 0 Att: 27,484

Apr 10 **Athletic Bilbao 1** (Williams 61)
Rayo Vallecano 0 Att: 37,703

Sporting Gijon 0
Celta Vigo 1 (Nolito 64) Att: 23,808

Valencia 2 (Parejo 41, Negredo 90+1)
Sevilla 1 (Gameiro 86) Att: 41,653

Villarreal 2 (Denis Suarez 15, Bakambu 84)
Getafe 0 Att: 17,570

Apr 11 **Deportivo La Coruna 1** (Lucas Perez 47)
Las Palmas 3 (Araujo 58, 90+3, David Garcia 79) Att: 21,686

Apr 15 **Levante 2** (Rossi 23, Medjani 66)
Espanyol 1 (Perez 7) Att: 13,125

Apr 16 **Celta Vigo 1** (Hernandez 78)
Betis 1 (N'Diaye 24) Att: 14,934

Eibar 2 (Enrich 32, Escalante 58)
Real Sociedad 1 (Zurutuza 7)
Att: 5,805

Getafe 1 (Sarabia 84)
Real Madrid 5 (Benzema 29, Isco 40, Bale 50, Rodriguez 88, Cristiano Ronaldo 90+2) Att: 10,951

Las Palmas 1 (Bigas 3)
Sporting Gijon 1 (Jony 48) Att: 24,989

Apr 17 **Atletico Madrid 3** (Koke 15, Fernando Torres 59, Correa 83)
Granada 0 Att: 51,136

Barcelona 1 (Messi 63)
Valencia 2 (Rakitic og 26, Santi Mina 45+1) Att: 86,903

Malaga 0
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Raul Garcia 53)
Att: 25,052

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Javi Guerra 7, Fedor 81)
Villarreal 1 (Adrian 20) Att: 12,628

Sevilla 1 (Iborra 21)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Oriol Riera 81)
Att: 30,390

Apr 19 **Betis 1** (Van Wolfswinkel 83)
Las Palmas 0 Att: 30,634

Espanyol 1 (Marco Asensio 39)
Celta Vigo 1 (Iago Aspas 28) Att: 13,314

Apr 20 **Athletic Bilbao 0**
Atletico Madrid 1 (Fernando Torres 38)
Att: 44,474

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Barcelona 8 (Suarez 11, 24, 53, 64, Rakitic 47, Messi 73, Bartra 79, Neymar 81) Att: 28,956

Malaga 1 (Ricca 90+1)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Baena 62)
Att: 13,759

Real Madrid 3 (Benzema 41, Lucas Vazquez 69, Modric 76)
Villarreal 0 Att: 62,678

Sporting Gijon 2 (Krychowiak og 22, Isma Lopez 90+1)
Sevilla 1 (Iborra 8) Att: 22,559

Valencia 4 (Paco Alcacer 10, 28, 40, Joao Cancelo 56)
Eibar 0 Att: 34,309

Apr 21 **Granada 5** (Success 25, El Arabi pen 35, pen 85, 90+3, Rochina 44)
Levante 1 (Ruben Garcia 82)
Att: 19,843

Real Sociedad 1 (Vela 19)
Getafe 2 (Sarabia 45, Alvaro Vazquez pen 56) Att: 14,265

Apr 22 **Las Palmas 4** (El Zhar 45+1, Jonathan Viera 49, Bigas 56, Wakaso 75)
Espanyol 0 Att: 19,351

Apr 23 **Atletico Madrid 1** (Correa 62)
Malaga 0 Att: 47,621

Barcelona 6 (Messi 12, Suarez 63, pen 74, pen 77, 88, Neymar pen 85)
Sporting Gijon 0 Att: 77,299

Eibar 1 (Adrian 8)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Cartabia 71)
Att: 4,606

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Embarba 7, Fedor 14)
Real Madrid 3 (Bale 35, 81, Lucas Vazquez 52) Att: 13,314

Apr 24 **Getafe 2** (Alvaro Medran 59, Scepovic 68)
Valencia 2 (Parejo 48, Paco Alcacer 84) Att: 11,637

Levante 2 (Victor 13, Etxeita og 68)
Athletic Bilbao 2 (Susaeta 88, San Jose 90+1) Att: 14,409

Sevilla 2 (Gameiro 67, Coke 80)
Betis 0 Att: 39,523

Villarreal 0
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 17,216

Apr 25 **Celta Vigo 2** (Iago Aspas pen 16, 76)
Granada 1 (El Arabi 69) Att: 18,241

Apr 29 **Sporting Gijon 2** (Carmona 43, Jony 82)
Eibar 0 Att: 25,436

Apr 30 **Atletico Madrid 1** (Griezmann 55)
Rayo Vallecano 0 Att: 49,263

Betis 0
Barcelona 2 (Rakitic 50, Suarez 81)
Att: 44,015

Granada 3 (Rochina 13, El Arabi 22, Ricardo Costa 71)
Las Palmas 2 (Jonathan Viera 3, 12)
Att: 19,534

Real Sociedad 0
Real Madrid 1 (Bale 80) Att: 26,426

May 1 **Athletic Bilbao 2** (Aduriz pen 38, Raul Garcia 72)
Celta Vigo 1 (Orellana 13) Att: 42,352

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Getafe 2 (Pedro Leon 41, Vigaray 85)
Att: 25,007

Espanyol 1 (Caicedo 52)
Sevilla 0 Att: 27,654

Valencia 0
Villarreal 2 (Samu Garcia 14, Adrian 33) Att: 38,283

May 2 **Malaga 3** (Cop 30, 89, Castro 90+3)
Levante 1 (Morales 42) Att: 17,562

May 8 **Barcelona 5** (Messi 8, Suarez 52, 61, Rafinha 74, Neymar 83)
Espanyol 0 Att: 91,610

Celta Vigo 1 (Nolito 31)
Malaga 0 Att: 20,040

Eibar 1 (Enrich 73)
Betis 1 (Ruben Castro 37) Att: 5,165

Getafe 1 (Scepovic 80)
Sporting Gijon 1 (Sergio Alvarez 50)
Att: 13,028

Las Palmas 0
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 27,410

Levante 2 (Victor 30, Rossi 90)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Fernando Torres 2)
Att: 12,054

Real Madrid 3 (Cristiano Ronaldo 26, 59, Benzema 42)
Valencia 2 (Rodrigo 55, Andre Gomes 81) Att: 72,987

Real Sociedad 2 (Oiarzabal 12, Bautista 50)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Javi Guerra 69)
Att: 18,873

Sevilla 1 (Diego Gonzalez 73)
Granada 4 (Cuenca 45+1, 88, Babin 79, El Arabi pen 86) Att: 21,915

Villarreal 0
Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Fajr 32, Lucas Perez 57) Att: 13,247

May 13 **Valencia 0**
Real Sociedad 1 (Oiarzabal 90+4)
Att: 27,732

May 14 **Athletic Bilbao 3** (Aduriz 11, 31, Raul Garcia 71)
Sevilla 1 (Juan Munoz 55) Att: 43,876

Atletico Madrid 2 (Fernando Torres 51, Griezmann 54)
Celta Vigo 0 Att: 42,139

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Real Madrid 2 (Cristiano Ronaldo 7, 25)
Att: 29,017

Granada 0
Barcelona 3 (Suarez 22, 38, 86)
Att: 21,692

May 15 **Betis 2** (Pezzella 56, Ruben Castro pen 73)
Getafe 1 (Alvaro Medran 84)
Att: 39,381

Espanyol 4 (Gerard Moreno 13, 76, Marco Asensio 32, 66)
Eibar 2 (Borja Baston pen 57, Enrich 90) Att: 13,501

Malaga 4 (Cop 28, Charles pen 45+1, 86, Atsu 84)
Las Palmas 1 (Willian Jose 33) Att: 17,913

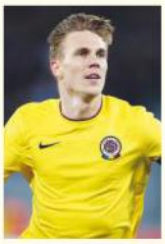
Rayo Vallecano 3 (Hernandez 12, Trashorras 23, Fedor 73)
Levante 1 (Verza pen 60) Att: 12,547

Sporting Gijon 2 (Jony 8, Sergio Alvarez 79)
Villarreal 0 Att: 27,834

	HOW THE LEAGUE WAS WON	CUP WINNERS	WHO QUALIFIED FOR EUROPE
Austria BUNDESLIGA *by Brian Homewood*	Red Bull Salzburg won their third successive title, but were nothing like as dominant as they had been in previous seasons. In fact, coach Peter Zeidler was sacked in early December because they were second. However, Rapid Vienna's five-match winless run allowed Salzburg to pull clear and wrap up the title with two games to spare.	Red Bull Salzburg completed the double with a 5-0 thrashing of Admira Wacker in a one-sided Cup Final in Klagenfurt, with Jonathan Soriano scoring a hat-trick. It was a high-scoring campaign for Salzburg, who beat Deutschlandsberger 7-0 and Austria Vienna 5-2. However, they needed extra-time to beat third-tier SV Horn.	Red Bull Salzburg go into the second qualifying round for the Champions League, while Rapid Vienna and Austria Vienna – who finished second and third respectively – enter the Europa League. As Salzburg also won the Cup, their Europa League place is taken by the team finishing fourth, Admira Wacker, who were also beaten cup finalists.
Belgium PRO LEAGUE *by John Chapman*	Under Michel Preud'homme's astute leadership, Club Brugge won the title for the first time since 2005. Both Anderlecht and Gent failed to last the pace, and Club Brugge benefited from an early European exit, avoiding last season's pile-up of fixtures. Abdoulay Diaby scored 13 goals for the club, including four in one game against Standard Liege.	Bottom after the opening months, Standard Liege missed qualifying for the Championship play-offs but were successful in the Cup, where they beat Club Brugge 2-1 in the Final (*right*).	Champions Club Brugge gained direct entry to the Champions League group stage, with runners-up Anderlecht entering the third qualifying round. Cup-winners Standard Liege are in the Europa League group stage, with Gent and Genk entering the competition in the third and second qualifying rounds respectively.
Bosnia-H PREMIER LEAGUE *by Sasa Ibrulj*	Vincent Tan's defending champions Sarajevo invested heavily, while city rivals Zeljeznicar had a good pre-season, but it was Sloboda Tuzla who were top at the halfway stage before running out of steam. Zrinjski Mostar, meanwhile, were unbeaten in their final 15 games, dropping just six points and winning a fourth title with a week to spare.	Sloboda Tuzla beat Sarajevo and Zeljeznicar on their way to the Final, only to lose for a seventh time in seven appearances. Radnik Bijeljina beat them 4-1 over two legs to win their first-ever trophy. Radnik narrowly avoided relegation last season, but have been on a roll since former Schalke defender Mladen Krstajic took over as president.	Zrinjski's reward for winning the title is a place in the second qualifying round of the Champions league, while Cup-winners Radnik will enjoy continental competition for the first time in the Europa League. They will be joined in the first qualifying round of that competition by league runners-up Sloboda Tuzla and third-place Siroki Brijeg.
Bulgaria A GROUP *by Rumen Paytashev*	Ludogorets (*right*) won the title for the fifth time in a row and they now have CSKA Sofia's national record of nine consecutive titles in their sights.	For the first time in Bulgarian football, a team from the third division won the Cup. CSKA Sofia beat top-flight Montana 1-0 to claim the cup for a 20th time, watched by a record crowd for the season of 33,345. However, CSKA won't play in next season's Europa League as they are still serving a punishment from UEFA.	Ludogorets will start in the second qualifying round and be hoping for a repeat of 2014, when they reached the group stage of the Champions League. The sides who will take part in the Europa League are runners-up Levski, third-place Beroe Stara Zagora and Slavia, who finished fourth and are back in Europe after a 20-year break.
Croatia PRVA HNL *by Sasa Ibrulj*	Dinamo Zagreb won their 11th league championship in a row, and just the fact that Rijeka were even involved in the title race until the closing stages was in itself a massive achievement. In the end, however, Dinamo finished eight points clear and lost just three league games – which is three more than they lost last season.	Having beaten their arch-rivals Hajduk Split 6-0 on aggregate in the semi-finals, Dinamo went on to beat Slaven 2-1 in the Final – in front of just 2,282 people in Zagreb. Despite their domination of the domestic game, and being one of the most popular clubs in the country, Dinamo struggle to attract people to watch their games.	Dinamo will start their Champions League campaign in the second qualifying round, while their unofficial sister club, Lokomotiva Zagreb, will enter the Europa League first qualifying round after finishing fourth in the league. Third-place Hajduk Split will play in the second qualifying round, while runners-up Rijeka are in the third qualifying round.
Cyprus FIRST DIVISION *by Nick Bidwell*	Despite using no fewer than three head coaches, APOEL (*below*) clinched their 25th and fourth title on the trot with a 2-0 win at home to AEK Larnaca.	Apollon Limassol landed their eighth Cypriot Cup courtesy of a 2-1 victory over Omonia Nicosia. The winner was headed in 18 minutes from time by former tank commander turned centre-back Angelis Charalambous. Both the winner and losing finalist had needed a penalty shoot-out to win their semi-final, against APOEL and AEK Larnaca respectively.	APOEL will begin their European campaign in the second qualifying round of the Champions League. League runners-up AEK Larnaca and fourth-place Omonia go into the first qualifying round of the Europa League, while cup winners Apollon Limassol – who were third in the league – join the competition in the third qualifying round.

RELEGATED/PROMOTED	PLAYER OF THE SEASON	COACH OF THE SEASON	NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
SV Grodig were relegated but will not apply for a second-tier licence as they do not consider the league to be financially viable. SKN St Polten went up, reaching the Bundesliga for the first time since they entered the pyramid in the fifth tier in 2000, after FCN St Polten were wound up. The two clubs are not officially linked.	Spanish striker Jonathan Soriano (*right*) of Red Bull Salzburg was top scorer in the Bundesliga, with 21 goals, and the Austrian Cup, with 10.	Former Barcelona player Oscar Garcia took over as coach when Red Bull Salzburg were involved in a three-horse race for the title with Rapid Vienna and Austria Vienna. Under the Spaniard's watch, the team went on to win 14 out of 19 games, losing only once, took the league title by nine points and completed the double.	Croatian centre-back Duje Caleta-Car of Red Bull Salzburg was just 18 years old at the start of his first full season in the Bundesliga, but he quickly established himself in the centre of the champions' defence. He also won a first call-up for his country but missed the final cut for the Euro finals in France.
White Star Brussels were refused a professional licence after winning the second division, so Eupen – who are owned by Qatar's Aspire Zone Foundation – took their place and return to the top flight after five seasons in the second tier. Leuven were relegated directly to the second tier after lasting just one season in the top flight.	No single player from any of Belgium's traditional big five clubs stood out during the season, and so the outstanding player was 25-year-old Algerian international Sofiane Hanni who scored 17 goals and had seven assists for Mechelen during the season. He made such an impression that he joined Anderlecht during the summer for €3m.	In his third season at Club Brugge, Michel Preud'homme (*below*) beat Anderlecht to the title by seven points and is set for a more English-style manager's role next season.	Jamaican winger Leon Bailey is definitely one for the future. He looked set to join Chelsea before moving to Belgium and Genk, but is said to still be on the English side's radar, as well as that of Borussia Dortmund. Aged 18, he's got speed, skill and, hopefully, a level of maturity that will take him to the top.
After a decade of a 16-club top flight, next year's competition will involve just 12 teams. Therefore, former giants Velez Mostar, who won just once all season, go down with Borac Banja Luka, Slavija, Travnik, Rudar Prijedor and Drina Zvornik. Two debutants will play in the first tier next season: Krupa na Vrbasu and Metalleghe Jajce.	In the twilight of his career, 33-year-old former international midfielder Zajko Zeba is back home after various spells playing in Slovenia, Russia, Croatia and Macedonia. He scored 10 goals this season and was a focal point for a Sloboda Tuzla side that had their best campaign since Bosnian independence.	Serb coach Slavko Petrovic (*below*) took charge of Radnik Bijeljina in 2014 and saved the club from relegation. This term he led them to a first trophy and into Europe.	Even though he is already 22, Samir Memisevic was all of a sudden a key player in Radnik's fantastic season. He was rejected by a couple of Serbian and Bosnian clubs, including his mother-club Sloboda, before he became Radnik's best player and made his debut for the Bosnia-Herzegovina national team.
After 25 years in the lower leagues, Dunav Russe return to the top flight. Litex Lovech were demoted to the second division after their match against Levski Sofia in December was abandoned when their players left the pitch in protest over referee decisions. Montana beat Pomorie 2-1 in the play-off to retain their place in the first division.	Now almost 36, Lokomotiv Plovdiv striker Martin Kamburov's enormous experience sees him continue to score goals in domestic football. With 18 this season, he was the Bulgarian league's top scorer for the fourth time in his career and he has now managed a total haul of 173 – a figure which puts him fourth in the all-time rankings.	After the disastrous start to the season under the Portuguese coach Bruno Ribeiro and then his successor Eduard Eranosyan, Georgi Dermendzhiev took charge of Ludogorets in November and steered the club to another title. The 61-year-old stabilised the situation and the squad soon got back to winning ways.	Romanian striker Claudiu Keseru adapted quickly to the Bulgarian league after joining Ludogorets from Qatari side Al Gharafa and finished second in the scoring charts with 15 goals. The 29-year-old's performances were enough for Romania's national coach Anghel Iordanescu to include him in his squad for the Euros.
The champions from 2002, NK Zagreb won just three games and were relegated. Istra 1961 beat Sibenik in the play-offs to retain their top-flight status. Sibenik lost the automatic promotion place a week earlier when they failed to beat Cibalia Vinkovci at home. Despite financial woes, Cibalia return to the top flight after a two-year absence.	Despite the fact that Hajduk Split had another poor season, Tino-Sven Susic (*below*) had a good campaign overall, with the Bosnian scoring 12 goals from midfield.	After flirting with relegation last season, Slaven appointed NK Zagreb coach Zeljko Kopic as their new boss during the summer. And despite having one of the smallest budgets in the league to work with, and a squad that was weak even by Croatian standards, he led the club to the Cup Final and steered them well clear of the drop zone.	Although this was actually Ilija Nestorovski's third season with Inter Zapresic, the previous two campaigns were spent in the second tier, so he still qualifies as the surprise package of the season. The Macedonian striker scored 25 goals and topped the league scoring charts and will join Palermo in Italy next term.
Twelve months after gaining promotion to the top flight, Enosis Neon Paralimni and Paphos both went straight back down again. Also relegated were Ayia Napa, who failed to win a single league game. Taking their place next season will be second-tier champions Karmiotissa, along with AEZ Zakakiou and Anagennisi Deryneia.	APOEL's Argentinian striker Fernando Cavenaghi (*below*) missed the last three months with a knee injury, but he was still the league's joint-top scorer with 19 goals.	The former Porto and Portugal under-21 centre-back Pedro Emanuel did a fine job in his first season in charge at Apollon Limassol. Having kept Arouca in the top flight in his homeland, the 41-year-old took his first job overseas and steered his new club to third place in the league and success in the Cypriot Cup.	Since joining Apollon Limassol from Hajduk Split in mid-season, the former Croatia under-21 international Anton Maglica kept the goal-counter ticking over very nicely. Now 24, the Bosnian-born striker managed to get eight goals in just 14 league appearances and bagged an impressive hat-trick against Paphos.

	HOW THE LEAGUE WAS WON	CUP WINNERS	WHO QUALIFIED FOR EUROPE
Czech Rep LIGA 1 *by Sam Beckwith*	While Sparta's Europa League exploits made more headlines, Viktoria Plzen (*right*) sealed back-to-back league titles and their fourth in six seasons, setting a new Czech record with 16 consecutive top-flight wins.	Mlada Boleslav capped an impressive season by beating Jablonec 2-0 in the Cup Final with goals from Jan Chramosta and Bosnian playmaker Jasmin Scuk. They had beaten Viktoria Plzen in the semi-finals, 1-0 on aggregate.	Viktoria Plzen and Sparta Prague are in the Champions League third qualifying round, while Slovan Liberec (*above*), Mlada Boleslav and Slavia Prague are in the Europa League.
Denmark SUPERLIGA *by Jim Holden*	Copenhagen (*below*) clinched the title with three games to spare after dominating the season thanks to the prolific attacking duo of Nicolai Jorgensen and Federico Santander.	Copenhagen beat AGF 2-1 in Final to complete the double, but the great drama was in the semi-finals with fierce local derbies, in which Copenhagen overcame Brondby and AGF triumphed against Aab.	League runners-up SonderjyskE will play in Europe for the first time, going into the Europa League second qualifying round, with Midtjylland and Brondby entering a round earlier. Copenhagen are in the Champions League second qualifying round.
Georgia UMAGLESI LIGA *by Oleg Zadernovsky*	Defending champions Dinamo Tbilisi extended their domestic dominance with a 16th championship since Georgia's independence in 1990. A 3-1 win away to Kolkheti Poti secured the title with four games to spare.	Dinamo Tbilisi (*right*) completed a domestic double with a 1-0 victory over Sioni Bolnisi in the Georgian Cup Final with a goal from Vakhtang Tchanturishvili.	Double-winners Dinamo Tbilisi go into the Champions League second qualifying round, while runners-up Samtredia are in the Europa League first qualifying round, along with third-place Dila Gori and Chikhura Sachkhere, who finished fourth.
Greece SUPERLEAGUE *by Lou Economopoulos*	Olympiakos (*right*) won a record 43rd title. Among the other records set were: wins in a row to start season (17), consecutive home wins (25) and fewest dropped points (one loss and one draw).	AEK beat holders Olympiakos 2-1, with goals from Petros Mantalos and Rafik Djebbour, in a Final staged in an empty Olympic Stadium after crowd violence blighted the semi-final between Olympiakos and PAOK. It was the first major trophy won by AEK since bankruptcy and relegation to the third tier in 2013.	Olympiakos are in the Champions League with PAOK (*right*). AEK and Panathinaikos will participate in the Europa League with Panionios.
Holland EREDIVISIE *by Klaas-Jan Droppert*	PSV retained their title on the final day despite not being in the driver's seat. All seemed lost when Ajax beat them at home a few weeks earlier. But despite having a goal-difference advantage and playing lowly De Graafschap, the Amsterdam club tripped at the final hurdle as they could only draw. A 3-1 win away at PEC Zwolle was enough for PSV.	Feyenoord (*below*) beat Utrecht 2-1 in the Final in Rotterdam. It was a well-needed win because the Rotterdam club had set an unwanted record of nine games without a win.	PSV qualified for the Champions League, while runners-up Ajax will play the third round of the qualifiers. Feyenoord and AZ, along with Heracles, who won the play-offs, will compete in the Europa League qualifiers.
Hungary NB I *by Peterjon Cresswell*	Ferencvaros led the league from the opening round of games and no one came close all season. They didn't drop a point until their 10th outing and didn't lose until late November on their way to a first championship since 2004.	With home advantage in the one-leg decider, Ferencvaros (*below*) claimed the double by beating bitter rivals Ujpest 2-0 thanks to a late goal by returning hero Zoltan Gera.	In the dogfight behind Champions League qualifiers Ferencvaros, Videoton and, after a poor start, Debrecen gained a place in the Europa League. MTK took advantage of Fradi's double by sneaking into Europe in fourth place.

RELEGATED/PROMOTED	PLAYER OF THE SEASON	COACH OF THE SEASON	NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Sigma Olomouc and Banik Ostrava drop out of the top flight and are replaced by Hradec Kralove and Karvina – although the latter's main sponsor, mining company OKD, has filed for bankruptcy protection and it remains unclear whether the club will have the financial resources to take its place in the first division.	Central midfielder Borek Dockal (*right*) helped Sparta remain competitive in league, cup and Europa League until the spring. 	Viktoria Plzen replaced Miroslav Koubek with Karel Krejci early in the season and he qualified the team for the Europa League group stage and outpaced Sparta Prague to the title. Krejci then stepped down at the end of the season.	Much-touted as a youngster, striker Patrik Schick – who turned 20 in January – made the transition to senior football with ease as a regular starter for Bohemians 1905, on loan from Sparta Prague.
The tiny village team of Hobro were finally relegated after somehow surviving their first season in the top flight. They won only 18 points and were a long way bottom. Three clubs are being promoted due to expansion of the Superliga to 14 teams next season, with Lyngby, Silkeborg and Horsens all returning after spells in the second tier.	Copenhagen striker Nicolai Jorgensen (*left*) scored 15 goals for the champions and also finally made his mark for the national team, scoring in the Euro 2016 play-offs against Sweden.	Jakob Michelsen was a surprise choice to take over at SonderjyskE last summer, never having worked in the top flight, but he instilled a never-say-die mentality in his players and clinched the runners-up spot on the same day that he became a father for the first time.	After making a dazzling debut for Nordjsaelland, 18-year-old Emre Mor (*right*) switched his allegiance to the Turkey national team.
Merani Martvili and Sapovnela Terjola were relegated and will be replaced next term by Liakhvi Tskhinvali and WIT Georgia. Zugdidi kept their place in the top flight with a 2-1 victory over Kolkheti Khobi in a play-off.	Returning to his homeland from Hungarian side Gyor, 22-year-old striker Georgi Kvilitaia scored 24 goals for Dinamo Tbilisi and topped the league scoring charts.	Hired by Dinamo Tbilisi in January, the Slovakian coach Juraj Jarabek (*right*), who left Spartak Trnava in his homeland last summer, won a league and cup double.	Playing his first season in the top flight with unheralded Saburtalo Tbilisi, 19-year-old midfielder Giorgi Kharaishvili scored 12 goals in 24 games.
Larissa, as champions, and Kerkyra were promoted from the Football League, with Panthrakikos and Kalloni relegated to the second tier.	Olympiakos' attacking midfielder Kostas Fortounis (*below*) topped the league scoring table with 18 goals and was also top of the assists chart with 12 as the Piraeus club won a sixth straight title.	Marco Silva led Olympiakos to a record 17 straight league wins during the season, with the 38-year-old Portuguese also taking the club to the Greek Cup Final.	Teenage defensive midfielder Dimitris Giannoulis was loaned to Veria from PAOK and played in all 24 league games to earn a call-up to the national under-21 squad.
Sparta Rotterdam (*below*) return to the Eredivisie after six years and replace Cambuur Leeuwarden. Go Ahead Eagles went up via the play-offs, with Twente demoted for financial reasons.	Hakim Ziyech's dribbles, free-kicks and goals are the only reason why troubled Twente, at least in a sporting way, managed to stay up. Many people in Holland regret his decision to play for Morocco.	John Stegeman took charge of Heracles when the club was at the bottom of the table and managed to keep the team in the Eredivisie. Playing attacking football, they even qualified for the Europa League by winning the play-offs.	AZ's Vincent Janssen (*below*) got a goal on his Holland debut and was the league top scorer with 27. His mother, Annemarie Verstappen, won three medals at the 1984 Olympics.
Vasas survived on the last day of the season with a 2-0 win at MTK to send Puskas Akademia down with Bekescsaba. From NBII, Gyirmot and Mezokoveszd are promoted, subject to receiving licences to play in the top flight.	Popular, bullish Daniel Bode scored 17 league goals and was the first Ferencvaros player to top the chart since Jozsef Dzurjak in 1990. He also contributed vital goals for Hungary in their Euro 2016 qualifying campaign.	German coach Thomas Doll (*right*) led Ferencvaros to a memorable double.	Making his debut in the Ferencvaros starting line-up in the Super Cup before the season kicked off, diligent midfielder Adam Nagy went on to win his first cap by September and was one of Hungary's heroes of the Euro 2016 qualifying play-offs.

	HOW THE LEAGUE WAS WON	CUP WINNERS	WHO QUALIFIED FOR EUROPE
Israel PREMIER LEAGUE *by Nick Bidwell*	In the closest title race for ages, Hapoel Be'er Sheva won their first championship for 40 years, finishing two points ahead of Maccabi Tel Aviv and denying them a fourth straight success.	Franco-Polish creative midfielder Ludovic Obraniak was the hero of the State Cup Final, scoring the only goal as Maccabi Haifa (*right*) edged out Maccabi Tel Aviv.	Hapoel Be'er Sheva enter the Champions League at the second qualifying stage. League runners-up Maccabi Tel Aviv and third-placed Beitar Jerusalem start the Europa League in the first qualifying round, while Maccabi Haifa begin the same competition a round later.
Macedonia PRVA LIGA *by Milorad Stojmanovski*	Vardar (*below, stripes*) won their fourth title in the last five seasons with a record 80 points, with Shkendija (*in white*) in second place.	Shkendija lifted the cup for the first time, winning 2-0 in the Final to deny Rabotnicki a third successive success. Shkendija beat Vardar 3-0 and 2-1 in the quarter-finals.	Vardar will start in the second qualifying round of the Champions League qualifiers, while Shkendija, Rabotnicki and Sileks go into the Europa League first qualifying round.
Malta PREMIER LEAGUE *by Dominic Aquilina*	Valletta finished four points ahead of dethroned champions Hibernians to claim their 23rd league title, leaving the club from the island's capital now three short of Sliema Wanderers' national record.	Goalless after extra-time, Sliema Wanderers (*below*) – who had Njongo Priso sent off – finally saw off Balzan in the Final, winning 5-4 on penalties.	Valletta enter the first qualifying round of the Champions League, while Sliema Wanderers, Hibernians and Birkirkara are in the Europa League first qualifying round.
Moldova NATIONAL DIVISION *by Miron Goihman*	With goal difference not counting, the title was decided by a "Golden match" for the first time after Sheriff and Dacia Chisinau finished joint top on 65 points. Sheriff won the play-off game 1-0 with a goal by Goran Galesic to claim a 14th championship in the last 16 seasons.	Zaria Balti (*left*) won the cup for the first time, beating Milsami Orhei 1-0 in the Final with an extra-time goal from Gheorghe Boghiu.	Sheriff enter the Champions League in the second qualifying round, while Zaria Balti are joined in the first qualifying round of the Europa League by Dacia Chisinau and Zimbru Chisinau, who finished second and third in the table.
Montenegro FIRST LEAGUE *by Dejan Panic*	Against all the odds, Mladost won the first silverware in their history. From the capital Podgorica, they became champions in impressive style, taking top spot after the fifth round of games and wrapping up the title with two games to spare.	After a goalless 120 minutes, Rudar won their fourth Montenegrin Cup by beating Buducnost 4-3 on penalties. Milos Radanovic saved two spot-kicks and also scored himself.	Mladost will play in the Champions League second qualifying round, while cup winners Rudar, who also finished third in the table, and league runners-up Buducnost will enter the Europa League in the first qualifying round. They will be joined there by Bokelj who finished fourth and will be making their European debut.
N Ireland PREMIERSHIP *by Roy Kitson*	Although they lost at home to Portadown on the opening day of the season, Crusaders were beaten only twice more during the season as they retained the title and were crowned champions for a sixth time.	Glenavon beat Linfield 2-1 on their own Windsor Park ground to claim the Irish Cup for a second time in three season and leave Northern Ireland's record scorer David Healy without a trophy at the end of this first season in charge of "The Blues".	Crusaders will play in the Champions League, while Linfield, Glenavon and Cliftonville (*right*) are in the Europa League.

RELEGATED/PROMOTED	PLAYER OF THE SEASON	COACH OF THE SEASON	NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Hapoel Acre and Maccabi Netanya were sent packing from the top flight after propping up the pile in the relegation round. They are replaced by second-tier champions Ashdod and next-in-line Hapoel Ashkelon.	Hapoel Be'er Sheva skipper Elyaniv Barda *(right)* was combative, single-minded and the club's top scorer with 13 goals.	The youngest coach to win an Israeli league crown in nearly four decades, 36-year-old ex-Kiryat Shmona boss Barak Bakhar enjoyed a perfect inaugural season with Hapoel Be'er Sheva. He instantly won over the doubters who thought he was too inexperienced to replace his highly rated predecessor, Elisha Levi.	US-born midfield holder Neta Lavi found himself on the fast-track to prominence, needing just six months go from Maccabi Haifa debutant to a first senior international cap for Israel.
Metalurg, who faced a player strike and had to finish the season with a team of youngsters, went down with Mladost and are replaced by Pobeda Makedonija GP. Turnovo lost a play-off against second-tier Pelister, so they also swap places.	After two seasons in Cyprus, Shkendija striker Besart Ibraimi (*left*) was the league's top scorer with 26 goals.	Vardar's fourth coach in five seasons, former director of football Goce Sedloski oversaw a campaign in which his team went top in the second week and stayed there.	Under-21 international Marjan Radeski (*right*) moved from Metalurg to Shkendija and made his mark in the national senior side, scoring his first goal in May, against Azerbaijan.
First Division champions Gzira United and runners-up Hamrun Spartans will replace Naxxari Lions and Qormi in the top flight next term. St Andrews retained their place after beating Senglea Athletic 2-1 in a play-off.	Named the Malta FA's player of the year for the second time in his career, Roderick Briffa claimed his fourth league title with Valletta – and his sixth in total.	Paul Zammit left Birkirkara at the end of last season and led Valletta to the title this term, just as he had in 2008 during his last spell in charge of the capital club.	Balzan's Lydon Micallef (*left*) rounded off a fine season by being named the MFA's Best Young Forward as well as Best Young Player Overall.
Academia Chisinau and Saxan are set to be relegated, with Spicul Chiscareni and Ungheni replacing them, but that all depends on licences being granted.	Sheriff striker Danijel Subotic scored some important goals during the season and was the league's top marksman with 12.	Croatian boss Zoran Vulic (*right*) joined Sheriff last year with the sole task of taking the club to the title – which he did.	Dacia's 20-year-old midfielder Alexandru Bejan has been with the club since the age of four and was a key player in their push for the title. An under-21 international who is tipped as a future star of Moldova football.
Mornar finished bottom and were relegated, while Jedinstvo won promotion. Petrovac and Iskra saved themselves by winning relegation/promotion play-off matches against second-tier clubs Cetinje and Bratstvo respectively.	With 19 goals, Mladost's 33-year-old Marko Scepanovic (*right*) was the league's top scorer.	In recent years, the 58-year-old former Sutjeska midfielder Nikola Rakojevic has always been thought of as one of the best Montenegrin coaches around. By guiding Mladost to the league title, he finally won the first trophy of his managerial career.	Attacking midfielder Darko Bjedov joined Zeta last summer from second-tier Indjija and impressed with 18 top-flight goals.
Championship winners Ards will replace Warrenpoint Town, who finished bottom of the Premiership, while second-tier runners-up Institute face Ballinamallard United in a play-off.	Since moving from Linfield in May 2014, Billy Joe Burns (*left*) has proved as valuable going forward as he is in defence at right-back and has won the title twice with Crusaders.	Twice a league champion as a player with Crusaders, Stephen Baxter has now led the club to two titles from the dugout.	Lively 20-year-old winger Joel Cooper joined Glenavon from second-tier Ballyclare Comrades last summer and played his leading part in the club finishing third in the league and winning the cup.

	HOW THE LEAGUE WAS WON	CUP WINNERS	WHO QUALIFIED FOR EUROPE
Poland EKSTRAKLASA *by Dariusz Kurowski*	Pre-season favourites Legia Warsaw (*below*) won the title, but a couple of shock defeats meant the title race went to the wire before they finished three points ahead of Piast Gliwice.	Just as they did 12 months earlier, Legia beat Lech Poznan in the Final, this time winning 1-0. However, the game was held up for 12 minutes when Lech fans threw flares onto the pitch after Aleksandar Prijovic's goal.	Legia will appear in the Champions League qualifiers, while league runners-up Piast Gliwice, Zaglebie Lubin, who were second-tier champions last year, and Cracovia, for the first time, will play in the Europa League qualifiers.
Portugal PRIMEIRA LIGA *by Tom Kundert*	In December, Benfica were seven points behind leaders Sporting, but inspired by Renato Sanches, Victor Lindelof and Ederson, and the goals of Jonas and Kostas Mitroglou, they embarked on a run of 25 wins and one draw from their final 27 Liga matches to claim a third straight title for the first time in four decades.	Fifty years to the day after last winning the Portuguese Cup, Braga triumphed for a second time, beating Porto in a dramatic Final. Having thrown away a 2-0 lead, they held their nerve to triumph in the penalty shoot-out.	Porto (*below, blue*) will have to negotiate a play-off if they want to join Benfica and Sporting (*in green*) in the group stage of the Champions League. Braga, Arouca and Rio Ave are in the Europa League.
Romania LIGA I *by Emanuel Rosu*	Astra Giurgiu (*right*) won their first title, wrapping things up with two games to go and ending Steaua Bucharest's run of three successive titles.	CFR Cluj beat Dinamo Bucharest on penalties to win their fourth Cup. Dinamo led 2-0 at half-time, but CFR came back through Carlos Ruiz and then Cristian Lopez in the 89th minute to send the Final into extra-time. The game was halted in the 14th minute to remember Patrick Ekang, who died earlier that month.	Astra and Steaua both enter the Champions League third qualifying round, while third-place Pandurii Targu Jiu go into the Europa League qualifiers. Because of insolvency, Dinamo Bucharest, Targu Mures and cup winners CFR Cluj were denied entry to continental competition, so Viitorul Constan and CSMS Iasi also get Europa League spots.
Russia PREMIER LEAGUE *by Victor Gusev*	Keeper Igor Akinfeev's spectacular double save in the closing minutes of CSKA Moscow's last-day 1-0 win at Rubin Kazan handed the capital club a third championship in four years as they finished two points ahead of the season's surprise side, Rostov, who would have won the title on their head-to-head record if Rubin had equalised. Zenit finished third.	One of the few bright spots for Zenit, whose coach Andre Villas-Boas (*below*) had announced his departure long before the season's end, was a 4-1 win over CSKA in the Cup Final.	CSKA go directly into the Champions League group stage, while Rostov are in the Champions League third qualifying round. Zenit are in the Europa League group stage, with Krasnodar and Spartak Moscow in the third qualifying round.
Scotland PREMIERSHIP *by Phil Gordon*	Despite leading Celtic to a fifth successive title, two of which were won under him, Ronny Deila stepped down as manager following yet more failure in Europe – and semi-final losses in the League Cup and Scottish Cup. After starting the season with a club-record eight wins in a row, Aberdeen fell away and finished 15 points adrift.	The first-ever Scottish Cup Final between two second-tier sides was a thriller as Hibernian went ahead and then had to come from behind to beat Rangers 3-2 and win the trophy for the first time in 114 years. Only a pitch invasion by celebrating fans spoiled their big day.	Celtic will enter the Champions League at the second qualifying round stage, while Aberdeen and Hearts – who finished third on their return to the top-flight – go into the Europa League first qualifying round. Scottish Cup winners Hibernian enter a round later.
Serbia SUPERLIGA *by Vladimir Novak*	After a shaky start, in which they lost to Kairat of Kazakhstan in the Europa League, Red Star dominated, going on a run of 24 consecutive victories and winning their 27th league title. In Argentinian left-back Luis Ibanez and Portuguese centre-forward Hugo Vieira they had foreign players who could make a difference.	Partizan reached the Final without conceding a goal in five matches and won in the Final 2-0 against Javor Ivanjica, with goals from central defender Marko Jovanovic and 16-year-old striker Dusan Vlahovic. It was the club's first Serbian Cup success since 2011.	Red Star will play in the Champions League second qualifying round, while runners-up Partizan go into the Europa League second qualifying round. Third-place Cukaricki and Vojvodina, who finished fourth, will start in the first qualifying round of the Europa League.

RELEGATED/PROMOTED	PLAYER OF THE SEASON	COACH OF THE SEASON	NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Arka Gdynia return to the top flight after an absence of five years, as do Wisla Plock after nine years away. Gornik Zabrze, who were Cup-winners Cup finalists in 1970, and Podbeskidzie Bielsko-Biala go down.	Hungarian forward Nemanja Nikolic (*right*) was the league's top scorer with 28 goals in his first season with Legia.	Radoslav Latal did a great job in charge of Piast, fighting Legia all the way for the title until the last day of the league season.	Cracovia's 19-year-old midfielder Bartosz Kapustka helped his team get into Europe and scored on his international debut, against Gibraltar, in September..
Vitor Oliveira has now enjoyed nine promotions to the Portuguese top flight, having taken Chaves up alongside Feirense, who return after a four-year absence. A dreadfully poor Academica were relegated long before the season ended, and Uniao da Madeira joined them after slipping into the relegation zone on the last day of the season.	He may not receive the plaudits of other star names, but Benfica's Brazilian centre-back Jardel was a rock at the heart of the champions' back four, even though injuries meant he had three different partners throughout the season. Deceptively fast, fully committed and dominant in the air, he also chipped in with some crucial goals.	He was stepping into some big shoes after Jorge Jesus' successful six-year stint at Benfica, but Rui Vitoria (*above*) retained his calm demeanour, claiming a Liga and League Cup double.	Rarely can an 18-year-old have made such a huge impact in his first season as a professional. Renato Sanches came into a struggling Benfica team and immediately stabilised the midfield. He rounded off an incredible campaign with a €35m transfer to Bayern Munich and a place in Portugal's Euro 2016 squad.
The first Romanian season with a play-off/play-out system saw ACS Poli Timisoara and Petrolul Ploiesti go down. Even worse, with devastating financial problems, both clubs could face bankruptcy this summer. Rapid Bucharest and Gaz Metan Medias come up. Voluntari must face UTA Arad to preserve their place in the top flight.	Astra's former Internazionale striker Denis Alibec (*right*) scored crucial goals and forced himself into the national team.	Nicolo Napoli guided low-budget and poorly supported CSMS Iasi into Europe for the first time. A former Juventus defender, he created a team capable of causing problems for any team in the league.	At 27, Argentinian midfielder Gonzalo Cabrera had a fine first season in Romania with Botosani. His 11 goals and numerous assists caught the eye with Astra.
Dynamo Moscow, Mordovia and Kuban Krasnodar were relegated and will be replaced by Gazovik Orenburg, Arsenal Tula and Tom Tomsk. However, Gazovik have had to change their name to FC Orenburg and look for a new owner as the Premier League does not allow double ownership and owners Gazprom already have Zenit there.	With 20 goals in 29 appearances, Krasnodar's Fyodor Smolov became the first Russian-born player to top the league scoring charts for 10 years. His season really took off after the winter break, when he was moved from a wide position inside to the role of central striker and proved his worth with an astonishing 14 times in 11 games.	Having led CSKA to the league and the national side to the Euro finals, Leonid Slutsky was the Executive Committee of the Russian Football Union's coach of the year, but his future remains uncertain. The RFU do not want the 45-year-old to continue combining both jobs and its president, Vitaly Mutko, says he must choose after France.	Not only did midfielder Aleksandr Golovin make it into CSKA's first team, the 19-year-old also reduced the national captain Roman Shirokov to a place on the bench. Effective both in defence and going forward, he has also made his mark with Russia's senior side since scoring on his debut, against Belarus last summer.
Four years after having to play in the fourth tier, Rangers made it to the Premiership, replacing Dundee United (*right*), who were champions in 1983. Kilmarnock avoided the drop, by beating Falkirk in the play-offs.	Leigh Griffiths' 40 goals – the first Celtic player to reach that figure since Henrik Larsson got 53 in 2000-01 – won every player award going, including those of the PFA, the football writers and his club.	When Jim McIntyre (*right*) took charge of Ross County in 2014 they were miles adrift and facing relegation. Not only did he turn the Highland club around in the Premiership, he also delivered their first-ever trophy: the Scottish League Cup.	A product of Celtic's youth system, Kieran Tierney came in at left-back for the suspended Emilio Izaguirre in a Europa League tie against Fenerbahce and was so impressive that he was still there 40 games later, and was capped by Gordon Strachan for Scotland at 18.
Jagodina and OFK Belgrade were relegated, while Napredak Krusevac and – for the first time – Backa, from province town Backa Palanka, will play next season in the top flight.	Hugo Vieira joined Red Star last summer as a free agent after experiencing a private tragedy earlier in the year when his wife lost a two-year battle against cancer. The Portuguese striker scored 20 league goals and had 10 assists.	Miodrag Bozovic, who previously worked in Russia, arrived at Red Star last summer and masterminded their march to the league title. No doubt, the 48-year-old Montenegrin is a quality coach, but his success was somewhat tarnished with a couple of incidents with referees and an ugly argument with a local journalist during a press conference.	A member of the Serbia side that won last summer's Under-20 World Cup, midfielder Marko Grujic (*right*) joined Liverpool for a reported €7m in January, but remained at Red Star on loan.

	HOW THE LEAGUE WAS WON	CUP WINNERS	WHO QUALIFIED FOR EUROPE
Slovakia FIRST LEAGUE *by Peterjon Cresswell*	Trencin successfully defended their title, winning by a far wider margin than they did last time out. Their away form in the first and second round of games was outstanding, with nine wins and two draws in 11 games, and they suffered just one defeat on the road all season.	Trencin (*right*) completed the double, beating Slovan Bratislava 3-1 with two goals from Gino Van Kessel in the last five minutes.	Double-winners Trencin go into the Champions League second qualifying round, which allows fourth-place Spartak Trnava to join runners-up Slovan Bratislava and Spartak Myjava, who finished third, in the Europa League first qualifying round.
Slovenia PRVALIGA *by Peterjon Cresswell*	Not even Maribor winning May's Ljubljana derby – in front of a league-record crowd of 14,500 – could prevent Olimpija Ljubljana, under president Milan Mandaric (*above*), claiming their first title.	Maribor made up for their league disappointment by beating Celje in the Slovenian Cup Final. With the teams level at 2-2 after extra-time, a penalty shoot-out involved 16 players before inexperienced 20-year-old Nino Pungarsek missed the vital spot-kick for Celje.	Olimpija Ljubljana will compete in the Champions League second qualifying round. Cup-winners Maribor have to make do with the Europa League second qualifying round, while their victory allowed fourth-placed Gorica to join third-place Domzale in the first qualifying round of the Europa League.
Switzerland SUPER LEAGUE *by Brian Homewood*	After starting with eight straight wins, Basle were 10 points clear by the winter break and were never going to relinquish that advantage, especially without the Champions League to distract them, and duly clinched the title with five games to spare. Young Boys took second place after a late surge, with Grasshoppers falling to fourth, behind Lucerne.	Four days after being relegated, Zurich beat Lugano 1-0 in the Final with a goal from Sangone Sarr. Lugano had missed a penalty as Mattia Bottani's effort was saved by Anthony Favre (*left*).	Basle qualified directly for the Champions League group stage, after Switzerland went back up in the UEFA coefficient, while Young Boys go into the third qualifying round. Lucerne and Grasshoppers enter the qualifying rounds of the Europa League – as do Vaduz, who won the Liechtenstein Cup – while Zurich start in the group phase.
Turkey SUPER LIG *by Nick Bidwell*	Just a month after opening their new stadium, Besiktas (*right*) celebrated their first title in seven years and their 14th overall, finishing five points ahead of runners-up Fenerbahce.	After a domestic league campaign of relentless mediocrity – finishing a dreadful sixth – Galatasaray salvaged a sliver of redemption with a 1-0 victory over arch-rivals Fenerbahce in the Turkish Cup Final, with German striker Lukas Podolski heading home the game's only goal.	Besiktas go into the Champions League group phase, while Fenerbahce must pre-qualify. Konyaspor, Istanbul BB and Osmanlispor are Europa League bound, while Galatasaray are banned from Europe for a season for breaching spending rules.
Ukraine PREMIER LEAGUE *by Oleg Zadernovsky*	Dynamo Kiev (*below*) retained their title with three games to spare after beating Vorskla Poltava 1-0 at home.	Shakhtar Donetsk won the Ukraine Cup for the 10th time, beating Zorya Luhansk 2-0 in the Final, with two goals from Oleksandr Hladkyy.	Dynamo Kiev are through to the group stage of the Champions League, while Shakhtar Donetsk must start in the third qualifying round. Third-place Dnipro are excluded from Europe, so Zorya Luhansk in fourth enter the Europa League at the group phase. Vorskla Poltava and Oleksandriya are in the third qualifying round.
Wales PREMIER LEAGUE *by Mel Thomas*	Although favourites The New Saints won the championship for a fifth successive season, runners-up Bala Town took them to within three games of the end of the season in what is becoming a much tighter national league.	TNS (*right*) completed the treble by adding the Welsh Cup – in which they beat Airbus UK 2-0 in the Final – to the League Cup and Premier League title.	TNS enter the Champions League in the first qualifying round, while Bala Town and promoted Llandudno, who finished in third place, go into the first qualifying round of the Europa League. They will be joined by Connah's Quay Nomads who, after winning the play-off Final, will play in Europe for the first time.

RELEGATED/PROMOTED	PLAYER OF THE SEASON	COACH OF THE SEASON	NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Promoted the season before, modest Skalica (*below*) went straight back down. Tatran Presov replace them.	Having previously appeared for Trencin on loan in 2013-14, striker Gino Van Kessel sealed his position at the club by finishing as the league's top scorer. He also established himself in Patrick Kluivert's Curacao side, who surprisingly knocked out Cuba in the 2018 World Cup qualifiers.	Martin Sevela (*right*) led Trencin to a second consecutive title.	Coming into his own in Spartak Trnava's spring campaign, 19-year-old goalkeeper Adam Jakubech emerged from the reserves to claim the position as his own – and make his debut for Slovakia's under-19 side.
Bottom-of-the-table Krka are replaced by Radomlje, who return after one season in the second tier. Champions in 2010, Koper only avoided the relegation play-offs with a 1-0 victory over Zavrc on the last day of the league season. Zavrc kept their place with a 4-3 aggregate victory over Aluminij.	Born in Maribor, much-travelled midfielder Rok Kronaveter (*right*) made all the difference for champions Olimpija Ljubljana.	Hired in April, former Celje defender Robert Pevnik won seven out of 10 games as he steered his old club from the relegation zone to fifth place. His team's brave performance in the Slovenian Cup Final against multi-titled Maribor also stood out.	A sensation at 16 when scoring for Krka, midfielder Martin Kramaric lost his way after joining Maribor but rediscovered himself this term on loan at Krsko and scored their winner at champions-to-be Olimpija Ljubljana. He also grabbed a brace for Slovenia to overcome Sweden at the Euro Under-19 Championship in March.
Twelve-times champions Zurich ended a 26-year stint in the top flight. Having spent most of the season around eighth place, they went bottom with three games left. Uli Forte replaced Sami Hyppia as coach, but despite taking four points from their final two games they went down. Lausanne-Sport, relegated two seasons ago, replace them.	Nineteen-year-old Breel Embolo (left) led Basle to yet another title in only his third season as a pro. He scored his first international goal for Switzerland in October.	Although winning the league is little more than an obligation for Basle, Urs Fischer still had to overcome initial hostility from the fans and rebuild the team after replacing Paulo Sousa in the summer.	Holding midfielder Denis Zakaria (*right*), 19, joined Young Boys from Servette for £250,000 and attracted interest from Italy, Germany and England. He was also included in the Switzerland squad for Euro 2016.
Mersin Idmanyurdu, Eskisehirspor and Sivasspor fell through the elite trapdoor, making room for a trio of second-tier high-flyers: champions Adanaspor, runners-up Karabukspor and Alanyaspor, who emerged victorious in the promotion play-offs.	Following a prolonged period of struggle in Italy with Fiorentina, many were writing Mario Gomez's football obituary, only for the German international striker to sensationally rise from the ashes at Besiktas and finish as the Super Lig's top scorer with 26 goals.	Senol Gunes (*below*), the man who led Turkey to third-place at the 2002 World Cup, claimed his first homeland championship, forging a clique-free collective at Besiktas.	Bosnian striker Riad Bajic, acquired from Zeljeznicar in the summer, showed a great deal of promise in his first season in Turkey with surprise package Konyaspor. He possesses a great left-foot and takes a dangerous free-kick.
Metalurh Zaporizhya, Hoverla Uzhhorod and Metalist Kharkiv were all expelled from the top flight. With the league being cut from 14 to 12 teams next term, only second-tier champions Zirka Kirovohrad were promoted and they are back for the first time since 2004.	Andriy Yarmolenko (*left*) played a big part in Dynamo Kiev's success, scoring 13 and providing 12 assists in 25 matches.	Dynamo Kiev's Serhiy Rebrov guided the team to a second successive UPL title.	Viktor Kovalenko (*left*) replaced Alex Teixeira in Shakhtar Donetsk's midfield.
Bottom club Haverfordwest County were relegated after only one season, but second-bottom Rhyl were reprieved when Port Talbot Town failed to receive a domestic licence. Coming up are Cefn Druids from the northern feeder, while from the south, Cardiff Metropolitan University are in the top flight for the first time.	Chris Venables of Aberystwyth Town won the Golden Boot for the third consecutive season after scoring 20 goals.	Craig Harrison (left) led TNS to a second successive treble.	Llandudno full-back James Joyce helped his side qualify for Europe for the first time.

World Soccer vintage 24 years ago

July 1992

Each month we look back at the highlights from a past issue

A jubilant Brian Laudrup of Denmark lifting the European Championship trophy was featured on the cover of *World Soccer*'s July 1992 edition. The Danes had shocked the football world by winning the tournament despite being late entrants following the withdrawal of Yugoslavia due to political problems.

"Rockets crashed and thundered up out of the Ullevi stadium and into the twilight zone as Denmark celebrated a unique victory over Germany's world champions," began Keir Radnedge's report.

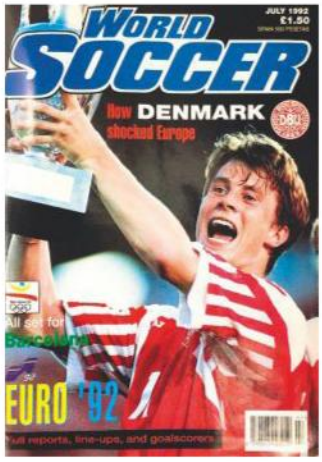
"But the greater explosion had already been detonated. Euro 92 will not be remembered as a classical feast of football, but it will never be forgotten.

"That is all to the credit not of the flawed giants of Germany and Holland, or the self-deluding also-rans from France and England, but to the nation which, within four weeks, gave Europe a jolt in both political and sporting terms.

"Denmark's victory was the most unpredictable in the modern game. But as German manager Berti Vogts admitted, 'they earned it and deserved it.' "

It was an incredible journey for the Danes. They hadn't originally qualified, but with the political situation in Yugoslavia about to erupt, they stopped planning their summer holidays and headed to neighbouring Sweden for a few weeks more football. And after a slow start, momentum grew for coach Richard Moller Nielsen's men.

"As Euro 92 stumbled to life once the first two stultifying rounds were out of the way, so Denmark lit their fuse," explained Radnedge. "They were bottom of Group One when they began their third match, against France. By the end of the game goals, from Henrik Larsen and Lars Elstrup had lifted them into the semi-finals."



Dynamite...Denmark conquer Europe

WORLD SOCCER, JULY 1992

DENMARK V GERMANY

UEFA 92 FINAL GOTHENBURG JUNE 26

ROCKETS crashed and thundered up out of the Ullevi stadium and into the twilight zone as Denmark celebrated a unique victory over Germany's world champions.

But the greater explosion already had been detonated. Euro '92 will not be remembered as a classical feast of football technique, but it will never be forgotten. That is all to the credit NOT of the flawed giants of Germany and Holland or the self-deluding also-rans from France and England . . . but to the nation which, within four weeks, gave Europe a jolt in both political and sporting terms. Denmark's victory was the most unpredictable in the modern game. But, as German manager Berti Vogts quickly admitted after his men's 2-0 defeat here, they earned it and deserved it.

The shock administered to European football lies not merely in their late appearance as substitutes for strife-torn, sanctions-busted Yugoslavia. Everyone thought Denmark's best days were in the recent past: the team of the mid-1980s, with Michael Laudrup (now he must be kicking himself now!), Preben Elkjaer, Morten Olsen, Frank Arnesen, Soren Lerby and the rest.

That was when Danish Dynamite was seen and heard as far as the semi-finals of the 1984 European Championship and the second round of the 1986 World Cup. After the defeat by Spain in a penalty shoot-out in the Euro '84 semi-finals, skipper Morten Olsen shrugged and said: "Luck evens itself out in the long term."

That "long term" proved to be eight years. Then along came Holland, back in the European semi-finals, back to the shoot-out. This time, of course, Denmark won.

Morten Olsen's successor as skipper and sweeper, Lars Olsen, duly went on to raise the Henri Delaunay Trophy on a Swedish summer evening which had been hot enough without all the temperature-extending drama. Denmark were, as Vogts and Holland boss Rinus Michels both pointed out, carried on to ever higher peaks by a surging tide of emotion.

When Flemming Povlsen was running up dead-ends and goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel was dropping crosses all over the place in the first matches they never suggested ambition beyond simple respectability.

But, as Euro '92 stumbled to life once the first two stultifying rounds were out of the way, so Denmark lit their fuse.

They were bottom of Group One when they began their third match, against France. By the end of the game goals from Henrik Larsen and Lars Elstrup had lifted them into the semi-finals.

Looking back, that goal by substitute Elstrup assumes ever greater importance. A suspicion of offside lurked around the build-up. But every successful team needs a little luck now and then.

A little luck and a lot of hard work. And nobody could deny the work Denmark put in — which was remarkable, considering the fact that players had been winding down towards their holidays when the out-of-the-blue call came from UEFA, courtesy of tragedy in Yugoslavia.

Manager Richard Moller Nielsen had planned to spend the weeks of the European Championship decorating the kitchen. One assumes now that he can afford to pay someone else to do the job.

Grey-haired Moller Nielsen, competent, unassuming, had never found himself at such exalted heights before. But he coped magnificently with the pressure, the responsibility and all the high jinks associated with participation at one of the game's great tournaments.

Arriving late was his great advantage. He did not have time to look around and become awed by his surroundings or the strengths of his opponents.

Germany lacked Lothar Matthaus and then Rudi Voller, had manager Vogts under the spotlight two years after succeeding Franz Beckenbauer, yet had the outstanding player of the event in Thomas Hassler.

Holland, weighed by their responsibility as European title-holders, featured a daily duel between Rinus Michels and his media; France never displayed the courage of their skill; England fretted over what might have been; Sweden played impressively above their station but not in the semi-finals, by which time they had already reached the limit of their ambition.

That was Denmark's strength. Entering the tournament as ultimate underdogs, their ambition was limitless. To say "we take every game as it comes" was to hear Moller Nielsen uttering one of the game's great clichés. But no manager ever used that phrase in more appropriate circumstances. The Danes did take each game one at a time. They had no choice.

Left . . . spot the ball as Jensen smashes in the first goal.

Below right . . . spot the scorer: Jensen almost buried beneath a crowd of delighted Danes.

DENMARK 2 GERMANY 0

Ref: Brune GALLER (Swi)
Att: 37,800
HT: 1-0

SCORERS

JENSEN 18, VILFORT 78

Peter SCHMEICHEL (1)	Bodo ILLGNER (1)
Torben PIECHNIK (12)	Stefan REUTER (2)
Lars OLSEN (4)	Jurgen KOHLER (4)
Kent NIELSEN (3)	Thomas HELMER (14)
John SIVEBAEK (2)	Guido BUCHWALD (6)
Kim VILFORT (18)	Thomas HASSLER (8)
John JENSEN (7)	Stefan EFFENBERG (17)
Henrik LARSEN (15)	Matthias SAMMER (16)
Kim CHRISTOFFE (5)	Andy BREHME (3)
Flemming POVLSEN (17)	Jurgen KLINSMANN (18)
Brian LAUDRUP (11)	Karl-Heinz RIEDLE (11)

yellow card ▲ red card

SUBSTITUTIONS

Lars CHRISTIANSEN (85 mins) • Thomas DOLL (46 mins)
Andreas THOM (80 mins)

MATCH STATISTICS

DENMARK		GERMANY
4	Shots on target	7
4	Shots off target	7
6	Corners	6
18	Fouls	16
3	Offsides	5
1	Bookings	5

Danes put new life into Europe

Astonishing outsiders dynamite Germany — and all the experts

This victory will never be forgotten

> "Denmark provided a thrilling reminder of football's unpredictability, even at the highest level. Their success breathed new life into European football"

That encounter with holders Holland in the last four was arguably the game of the tournament.

Denmark led twice, with Larsen scoring both goals, but the Dutch equalised through Dennis Bergkamp and Frank Rijkaard. Eventually penalties ensued and a Peter Schmeichel save from Marco Van Basten was enough to see the Danes continue their amazing journey.

In the Final, two fine strikes, one in each half by John Jensen and then Kim Vilfort, gave Denmark a 2-0 win against the reigning world champions Germany.

"Moller Nielsen was delighted," continued the report. "He and his players could not grasp quite what had happened to them. In less than a month they had turned failure into fulfilment.

"Denmark arrived in Sweden with nothing to prove. From here on they will find life very different. Now they are kings of Europe, expected to play the role every time they go out on the pitch.

"Brian Laudrup and co will be expected to seize the attacking initiative. They will be expected to play every minute of every game like the champions they had outrageously become.

"Denmark provided a thrilling reminder of football's unpredictability, even at the highest level. Their success breathed new life into European football, into every nation, every club, every player.

"After all, if Denmark can do it..." WS

REPORT from KEIR RADNEDGE in Gothenburg

particularly with the injuries they gathered as time went on.

One assumes that a higher initial level of fitness would have raised the players' resistance. How they kept tottering on through extra time against Holland — without Henrik Andersen, probably their finest player of the finals — when so many of their men were on their knees, was nothing short of a soccer miracle.

Of course, not only were Denmark under no exterior pressure, many other factors saved them from over-exposure until, for both European champions (Holland) and world champions (Germany) it was too late.

The big tournaments resemble a three-ring circus. The active football involves just one of them.

In another ring we have the formalities: the UEFA Congress as well as Moroccans and Americans preaching their various World Cup virtues.

In the third ring is a mixed bag which included several outbreaks of hooliganism perpetrated not only by English but also by some Swedish and German followers (to digress, this is why England, with matchless anti-hooligan expertise, remains the best place to stage the 1996 European finals).

Wagged

Other factors do influence teams. Refereeing is one. The officiating at Euro '92 was patchy, to say the least. Early on we had some finicky, fussy work with yellow cards wagged at the slightest infraction.

But the so-called "top men" in the last three matches were all well below par. Tullio Lanese of Italy was far too laid-back in Sweden v Germany. Emilio Soriano Aladren of Spain was staggeringly inept in Denmark v Holland (his refusal to book Ronald Koeman for an awful trip on Povlsen raised immediate questions about his relationship with Barcelona back in Spain); and Bruno Galler, of Switzerland, very nearly allowed the Final to slide out of control as he turned a Nelson's eye to a string of spiteful little clashes.

Germany might have felt aggrieved in the Final. They thought Kim Vilfort had fouled Andy Brehme before the first goal and they thought Vilfort handled on the way to his decisive second-half strike.

But Vogts, to his credit, would have none of it. He said: "We do not need to look to outside forces to find excuses. If we had taken all the chances we had, we would have won the match. It's as simple as that."

No wonder the Danish fans made more noise than their rivals. The German fans did not have a happy time at the Final. They shuffled away from the Ullevi with eyes glazed in disbelief.

Invaded

First, the faithful who had trailpsed around Sweden were infuriated to learn than the extra tickets for the Final had been largely allocated for travel company packages back home. They invaded the German training camp two days before the Final and it took the personal intervention of Vogts to persuade the DFB to come to their rescue.

Once in the Ullevi, they were out-shouted by the red-and-white painted Danish day-trippers. Perhaps they already sensed what was coming. Germany dominated possession and most of the First was played in Denmark's half of the pitch.

But Jurgen Klinsmann (twice), Stefan Reuter and Stefan Effenberg were all denied a first-half goal either by poor finishing or good stops from keeper Peter Schmeichel.

In the midst of the half, Vilfort robbed Andy Brehme, set Povlsen free with a superb backheel and the centre-forward from Germany's Borussia Dortmund (!) laid on the opportunity which John Jensen took in style.

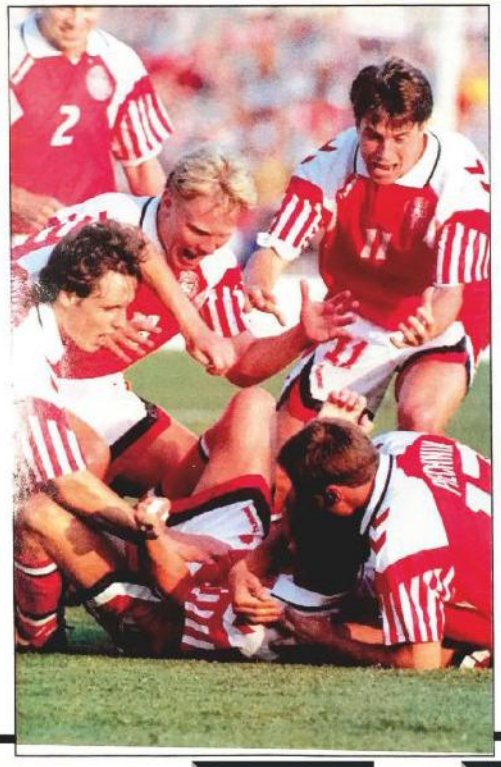
Germany had opened in predictable formation. Reuter, Kohler, Helmer and Buchwald comprised yet another top-heavy defensive line; Hassler, Effenberg, Sammer and Brehme were an under-strength midfield; Klinsmann and Riedle were inconsistently served up front.

Denmark used Lars Olsen free as usual, with the promising Torben Piechnik on Riedle, the ultimately triumphant Kent Nielsen on Klinsmann and John Sivebaek blocking Brahme's advances on the right.

Versatile Kim Christofte took over the role on the left of defence left vacant by the gruesome knee injury Henrik Andersen had suffered in the semi-final victory over Holland.

Andersen's loss (he would have been suspended had he not been injured) could have been decisive. He had

CONTINUED OVER



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Also in this issue...

p18-19 Keir Radnedge attended England's last match at the Euro finals, against hosts Sweden, and witnessed the humiliating way Gary Lineker's international career was brought to an end. He wrote: "In due course, this decision may be seen as the decisive own goal of [Graham] Taylor's management. Ending Lineker's magnificent England career by turning him into an apparent scapegoat for defeat was resented more deeply than the team's failure."

p54 Spain correspondent Graham Turner, reported on a dramatic finale to the La Liga season, noting: "8.40pm on June 7th. Real Madrid were 2-1 up in Tenerife. Their two points made Barcelona's 2-0 advantage over Athletic Bilbao irrelevant." Yet, with just a few minutes remaining, an own goal by defender Ricardo Rocha and a mistake by goalkeeper Paco Buyo, gifted two goals to the home side. "Tenerife 3 Real Madrid 2 and Barcelona, who had not topped the table all season, were champions," he concluded.

p39 Looking ahead to Paul Gascoigne's forthcoming injury-delayed move to Lazio, Brain Glanville commented: "To Gazza, good luck, and Lord knows he will need it," he said. "How different everything might be, not only for him, but for a club who were in turmoil in the last weeks of a disastrous season. In the circumstances, greeting Gazza as the new saviour has alarming undertones. The expectations placed on his sturdy shoulders are almost unbearable. And never mind the shoulders, what of the knee? Passing a fitness test is one thing. Surviving in the most demanding championship in the world is quite another."

10 years ago

France's Zinedine Zidane was sent off in the World Cup Final for head-butting Italy's Marco Materazzi in extra-time, after both players had scored in the first half for their respective countries. The match went to penalties and Italy triumphed 5-3 on spot-kicks.

20 years ago

Carlos Valderrama was playing for Tampa Bay Mutiny in MLS, where home matches became known as "Carlos Valderrama Day". Fans would turn up in wigs, reminiscent of the Colombian's hair, and in a game against Kansas City Wiz even the opposition joined in.

30 years ago

Barcelona unveiled their new signings from English football: Everton's Gary Lineker and Mark Hughes of Manchester United. The two forwards, aged 25 and 23 respectively, linked up with English coach Terry Venables and his assistant Allan Harris at the Camp Nou.

40 years ago

In the Final of the 1976 Olympic football tournament in Canada, East Germany sprung a surprise when they beat a talented Poland side – containing Grzegorz Lato, Jan Tomaszewski and Kazimierz Deyna – that had finished third at the World Cup two years earlier.

50 years ago

On July 30, England, led by captain Bobby Moore and managed by Alf Ramsey, won the World Cup on home soil at Wembley, beating West Germany 4-2 after extra-time in the Final. Geoff Hurst with a hat-trick and Martin Peters were England's goalscorers.

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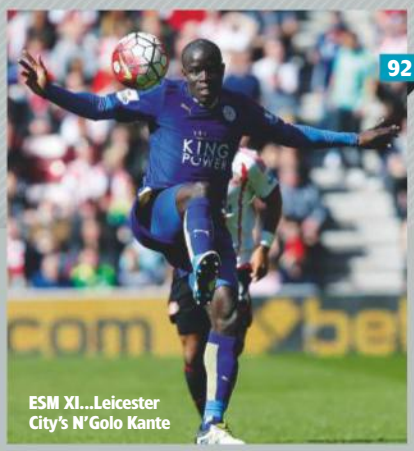

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ESM XI...Leicester City's N'Golo Kante

MAY 18 - JUNE 9, 2016

Global diary

A comprehensive record of recent events around the world

Wednesday May 18

ALBANIA: Skenderbeu Korce claim a sixth straight Superliga title with a 2-0 win at Flamurtari on the last day of the season.
BOSNIA: Radnik Bijeljina will play in Europe for the first time after beating Sloboda Tuzla 3-0 to win a maiden Bosnian Cup 4-1 on aggregate.
BRAZIL: Maicon scores in a 2-1 loss at Atletico Mineiro to send Sao Paulo into the Libertadores Cup semi-finals on away goals following a 2-2 draw on aggregate.
CYPRUS: Apollon Limassol avenge their 2012 Cup Final defeat with a 2-1 victory over Omonia.
CZECH REPUBLIC: Although he misses the Final through injury, 34-year-old striker Milan Baros wins a first trophy in his homeland as Mlada Boleslav beat Jablonec 2-0 to lift the Czech Cup.
GEORGIA: Dinamo Tbilisi complete a domestic double with a 1-0 victory over Sioni Bolnisi in the cup Final.
HOLLAND: Twente are provisionally relegated from the Eredivisie over their financial mismanagement.
SPAIN: Sevilla come from behind to beat Liverpool 3-1 and win an unprecedented third straight Europa League, claim a record-extending fifth title overall and book a place in next season's Champions League.

Thursday May 19

ARGENTINA: Boca Juniors beat Nacional of Uruguay on penalties to make the Libertadores Cup semi-finals, where they meet Colombia's Atletico Nacional, who beat Rosario Central 3-2 on aggregate.
AUSTRIA: Salzburg complete the domestic double for the third time in a row with a 5-0 Cup final victory over Admira.
GERMANY: The day after he is diagnosed with a tumour, Eintracht Frankfurt captain Marco Russ scores an own goal in a 1-1 draw withyNuremberg in the first leg of their relegation/promotion play-off.

Friday May 20

DJIBOUTI: Djibouti Telecom beat AS Port 3-0 to claim their fourth successive league title.
NIGERIA: Giwa FC – who are owned by Chris Giwa, who is involved in a power struggle with the Nigerian Football Federation after declaring himself its elected president – are expelled from the country's top flight for failing to fulfil fixtures.
QATAR: Lekhwiya come from two down to draw 2-2 and then beat Al Sadd on penalties to win the Emir Cup for the first time in their history.
SAUDI ARABIA: Abdullatif Al Hussaini will take charge of Al Hilal's AFC Champions League tie with Lokomotiv Tashkent in Uzbekistan next week after coach Giorgos Donis is sacked following a goalless draw in the home leg.
SERBIA: Slavisa Kokeza is elected president of the Football Association of Serbia, until 2020, at the governing body's general assembly.
SCOTLAND: Brendan Rodgers is named as manager of Celtic on a 12-month rolling contract.

Saturday May 21

BELARUS: Torpedo Zhodino claim their first-ever trophy, beating BATE on penalties in the Cup Final.
ESTONIA: Flora beat Sillamae 3-0 in extra-time to win the Cup Final.
FRANCE: Zlatan Ibrahimovic scores twice on his last appearance for Paris Saint-Germain as they beat Marseille 4-2 to lift the French Cup for a 10th time and equalling OM's all-time record.
GERMANY: Bayern Munich claim the double in Pep Guardiola's last game in charge as they beat Borussia Dortmund on penalties.
ISRAEL: Hapoel Be'er Sheeva are crowned league champions for the first time in 40 years with a 3-1 victory over Bnei Sakhnin.
ITALY: Juventus become the first team to complete successive doubles, beating Milan 1-0 in the Italian Cup Final.
PORTUGAL: Coach Helio Sousa's side win the Euro Under-17 title, beating Spain on penalties in the Final after a 1-1 draw.
RUSSIA: Alan Dzagoev scores the winner as CSKA Moscow seal the title with a 1-0 win at Rubin Kazan on the last day of the season, but he also breaks a metatarsal bone in a foot and is out of the Euro finals.
SCOTLAND: Hibernian end a 114-year wait by beating Rangers 3-2 in the Final to win the Scottish Cup for

Going through...Boca Juniors' Leonardo Jara leads his team-mates in celebrating as they beat Nacional in the Libertadores Cup

Miss...Harry Kane's spot-kick is off target

the first time since 1902.
USA: New York Red Bulls thrash New York City 7-0.

Sunday May 22

ENGLAND: Harry Kane is the first England player to miss a penalty for six years, but he still gets on the scoresheet as they beat Turkey 2-1.
GAMBIA: Ports Authority draw 2-2 with Serrekunda United to win their first league title for six years.
PORTUGAL: Fifty years after they last won the Portuguese Cup, Braga beat Porto on penalties following a 2-2 draw.
SPAIN: Barcelona complete the double, beating Sevilla 2-0 after extra time in a Cup Final that sees red cards for Javier Mascherano of Barca and opponents Ever Banega and Daniel Carrico.

Monday May 23

ENGLAND: Two days after beating Crystal Palace 2-1 in the FA Cup Final, Louis Van Gaal is sacked as ➤

Cup holder...Barcelona's Andres Iniesta

Africa

MARK GLEESON

Player ban lets in Sundowns

South Africans get Champions League reprieve

It seems incredulous that a team could field a suspended player in three qualifying rounds without detection, but that is the embarrassing lot of CAF, who missed the fact Vita Club of DR Congo made it all the way through the preliminary knockout rounds to reach the group phase of the Champions League with Idrissa Traore in their line-up.

Traore, who was signed from Stade Malien in December, should have been sidelined with a suspension carried over from last year when he competed in the African Confederation Cup.

Uncompleted suspensions in one CAF club competition carries over to another, and so Traore's appearances against Mafunzo of Zanzibar, Mozambique's Ferroviario Maputo and Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa meant they were disqualified.

While Vita Club could possibly be excused the mistake, how it was not picked up by CAF, in this age of computerisation, is bemusing at best. By CAF's own admission, they only found out about it when Traore's former club made a complaint.

As a result, Vita Club were kicked out of this year's Champions League just hours before the draw for the group phase and their place was taken by Sundowns in an extraordinary turn of fortune for the newly crowned South African champions.

Sundowns were beaten on away goals by Vita in the last qualifying round and had dropped down to the Confederation Cup's last qualifying round – where they were also beaten, again on away goals.

After being out of all continental competition, Sundowns now find themselves in Group B of the Champions League alongside a trio of past winners: 2014 victors Entente Setif of Algeria, five-time champions Zamalek of Egypt and Enyimba, the only Nigerian club to have won the Champions League.

Favourites and record eight-time winners Al Ahly are in Group A with Zesco United of Zambia, Ivorian side ASEC Mimosas and Morocco's Wydad Casablanca, who eliminated holders Mazembe Englebert in the preliminaries.

With John Toshack in charge, Wydad could be a force to be reckoned with, while Martin Jol has settled in well at Ahly since taking over in February. Fellow Egyptians Zamalek, however, saw Alex McLeish depart as coach after just two months and they continue to be affected by boardroom wrangles and something of a victim culture which regularly sees them threatening to withdraw from the domestic league over what they perceive to be refereeing that is biased against them.

Last year, seven of the eight clubs in the group phase – which is when the share of television and marketing revenue begins to be distributed to the clubs – came from the Arabic-speaking north of the continent. This time there is a more even distribution, with four clubs from south of the Sahara. And it is only the second time since the group phase was introduced, in 1997, that a Zambian club is in the final eight, Zesco having beaten Stade Malien home and away in the last knockout round.

Luck...Mamelodi Sundowns

This year also marks the first time that club completion matches in Africa are being staged in midweek, with three of the six rounds of group games set for a Tuesday or Wednesday night rather than a Saturday or Sunday. In the past, clubs have complained that weekend games in continental club competitions impact on domestic fixture lists and create congestion.

And as of next year, CAF will need to find even more match days as they are doubling the size of the group phase of both the Champions League and Confederation Cup to 16 teams. WS

CAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE KEY DATES

Group stage ends August 24
Semi-finals September 16-18 & 23-25
Final October 14-16 & 21-23

➤ manager by Manchester United.
FIFA: Deputy secretary-general Markus Kattner is sacked over financial irregularities.
FRANCE: Atletico Madrid buy a 35 per cent stake in bankrupt Ligue 2 side Lens, with the remainder being purchased by Luxembourg company Solferino – of whom Ignacio Aguillo, a member of the Spanish club's board, is a major shareholder.
GERMANY: Eintracht Frankfurt win 1-0 at Nuremberg to retain their Bundesliga status 2-1 on aggregate.
WALES: Chris Coleman, whose current deal was set to end this summer, extends his contract as national manager for two years.

Tuesday May 24

CHINA: Trailing 2-1 to Tokyo after the away leg, Wu Lei's stoppage-time strike in the return sends Shanghai SIPG into the last eight of the AFC Champions League on away goals.
ECUADOR: Independiente del Valle beat Pumas of Mexico on penalties to reach the Libertadores Cup semi-finals for the first time.
FRANCE: Real Madrid centre-half Raphael Varane is ruled out of the Euro finals with a thigh injury and is replaced by Adil Rami of Sevilla.
ISRAEL: Yossi Benayoun plays his last game for Maccabi Haifa as they beat holders Maccabi Tel Aviv 1-0 in the State Cup Final.
NORTHERN IRELAND: Euro squad keeper Roy Carroll signs a one-year deal with Linfield.
RUSSIA: Having quit Shakhtar Donetsk on Saturday, after their 2-0 win over Zorya in the Ukrainian Cup Final, Mircea Lucescu signs a two-year deal to coach Zenit.
SOUTH KOREA: Former winners Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors secure a second consecutive place in the AFC Champions League quarter-finals as a 2-1 triumph over Melbourne Victory wraps up a 3-2 aggregate win.
SPAIN: Valencia hand interim coach Pako Ayestaran a permanent, two-year contract.
UAE: Despite losing 3-1 to Tractor Sazi in Iran, Al Nasr scrape into the AFC Champions League quarter-finals for the first time with a 5-4 aggregate victory.
UZBEKISTAN: Lokomotiv Tashkent beat Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal 2-1 to claim a first-ever place in the last eight of the AFC Champions League.

Wednesday May 25

CHINA: Hao Junmin's last-minute equaliser sees Shandong Luneng qualify for the AFC Champions League quarter-finals as their 2-2 draw with Sydney in Australia puts ➤

CHINA

JOHN DUERDEN

The cost of failure

Coaches pay price as demand for success grows

The Chinese Super League has ambitions to be one of the biggest and most important in the world, and the path towards becoming an elite competition was eased in the winter as its clubs spent over £200million on foreign talent.

In terms of hiring and firing coaches, the CSL is already starting to be up there with the big boys. One week in June saw Mano Menezes and Vanderlei Luxemburgo, two former Brazil national team coaches, and Dan Petrescu all leave the Middle Kingdom.

The season started in March; the firing season in May. Serbian boss Slavisa Stojanovic was let go by Changchun Yatai, and in the same month Alberto Zaccheroni was sacked by Beijing Guoan after just nine games of the season.

While there were injuries for Zaccheroni to deal with – Turkey striker Burak Yilmaz started just one game in April, although he still joined up with his national team for Euro 2016 – the Italian managed only two wins and his dull style of play did not win any admirers, with the "Green Lions" looking disjointed. Despite almost four years in charge of Japan's national side, Zaccheroni never seemed comfortable in China – and even less so when sections of the Beijing crowd turned against him.

Even Luiz Felipe Scolari has had a few difficult moments. Five months after leading Guangzhou Evergrande to an Asian Champions League and

Flying...Shandong Luneng's Wang Tong in Champions League action

Farewell...Dan Petrescu with Jiangsu Sainty's Brazilian striker Jo

CSL double, the Brazilian knew he was in trouble when his side exited this year's continental competition at the group stage and one newspaper called his position at the club "precarious".

If strong domestic form saved one former *Selecao* coach, problems at home did for another as Menezes was fired by Shandong Luneng. Having finished third last year, Shandong didn't expect to be in the relegation zone this term, but that's exactly where they found themselves at the end of May after a 2-0 home defeat at the hands of Beijing.

Even the team's exploits in Asia couldn't save Menezes. He had taken the team to the last eight of the Champions League for the first time in seven attempts after eliminating Sydney on away goals, but domestic form saw Shandong replace one big name with another as they brought in Felix Magath.

At one time, the 62 year-old Magath had a reputation for arriving at a struggling club and putting out fires. But with Shandong club officials claiming Menezes struggled with cultural differences, it will be fascinating to see how the German's famously demanding training methods will go down with his new charges in China.

Elsewhere, Luxemburgo – Brazil's coach from 1998 to 2000 – was let go by second-tier side Tianjin Quanjian after indifferent results. His replacement

Gone...Mano Menezes

is Fabio Cannavaro, Scolari's fired predecessor at Guangzhou Evergrande. The Italian was ejected from southern China as the club wanted a more Samba-style of football, but if he can get the best out of former Brazilian internationals Luis Fabiano and Jadson at the League One club, Cannavaro may soon find himself facing his old team.

Petrescu was another high-profile departure. The former Chelsea defender lifted the Chinese FA Cup in November with Jiangsu Sainty, who finished ninth in the league. Shortly after, the club was taken over by Suning, China's biggest retailer, who then proceeded to make headlines around the world by paying more in the winter transfer window than not only any European club but most European leagues in their entirety. In came Brazilian stars Alex Teixeira and Ramires for over £60m, and they were joined by former Everton and Manchester City striker Jo, Australian international defender Trent Sainsbury and Gu Chao, who became the most expensive goalkeeper in Chinese history.

As soon as the new owners came in, there were rumours that they wanted a higher-profile coach, but Petrescu had the team in the top two for the opening stages of the season. Then two points from three games in May had Jiangsu in danger of losing touch with the leaders, and when they went out of the Champions League in the group stage it was all over. The 48-year-old Romanian left Nanjing airport on the verge of tears after a send-off by fans.

Jiangsu have been looking at Cesare Prandelli, among others, and it is no coincidence that an Italian is top of their list. In June, Suning bought a controlling stake of almost 70 per cent in Internazionale as part of the company's ambition to become a major force in the world of football. As well as the two clubs it now controls, there are links with other European teams, along with plans to get involved with player agencies, online media content and plenty more besides.

With Inter now part of Suning's portfolio, China is increasingly part of world football's "eco-system" and is only set to get bigger. WS

➤ them through on away goals after finishing 3-3 on aggregate.
ITALY: Giampiero Ventura leaves Torino amid reports he will replace Antonio Conte as the national coach after Euro 2016. Sinisa Mihajlovic takes over at the Stadio Olimpico.
RUSSIA: Roman Neustadter's place in the country's Euro 2016 squad is confirmed as the Schalke midfielder is granted Russian citizenship.

Thursday May 26

ENGLAND: From next season, the FA Cup quarter-finals will not go to a replay and will be settled on the day.
ROMANIA: Cup-winners CFR Cluj and Targu Mures fall foul of UEFA's financial rules and are disqualified from the qualifying rounds of next season's Europa League.
SAN MARINO: Tre Penne win the national title for a third time, beating La Fiorita 3-1 in the play-off Final.

Friday May 27

CZECH REPUBLIC: Petr Cech overtakes Karel Poborsky as the country's most-capped player as he makes his 119th appearance, in a 6-0 victory over Malta.
ENGLAND: Jose Mourinho signs a three-year deal as Manchester United manager. Just 92 days after his United debut, teenager striker Marcus Rashford takes 135 seconds to score his first international goal as England beat Australia 2-1.
FRANCE: Eric Cantona suggests Didier Deschamps may have left Karim Benzema and Hatem Ben Arfa out of *Les Bleus*' Euro squad due to ethnicity.

Saturday May 28

ENGLAND: Hull City return to the Premier League with a 1-0 play-off Final win over Sheffield Wednesday.
SPAIN: Cristiano Ronaldo scores the winner as Real Madrid beat Atletico Madrid on penalties to win the Champions League after drawing 1-1.

Sunday May 29

ARGENTINA: Lanus beat San Lorenzo 4-0 in the Final to become champions for a second time.
EL SALVADOR: Dragon will make a first appearance in the CONCACAF Champions League after beating Aguila 1-0 to win the clausura title.
ENGLAND: The national under-21 side win the Toulon Tournament, beating France 2-1 in the Final.
GUATEMALA: Suchitepequez beat visiting Comunicaciones 3-0 to win the clausura title 4-2 on aggregate.
MEXICO: International striker Alan Pulido, who plays for Greek side Olympiakos, is rescued hours after ➤

➤ being kidnapped in Ciudad Victoria, in Tamaulipas state. Pachuca beat Monterrey 2-1 on aggregate to win the Clausura Final.
MOLDOVA: Sheriff beat Dacia Chisinau 1-0 in a play-off to win the league title after finishing the season level on points.
ROMANIA: Ukraine win 4-3 to deny Romania a record-equalling 16th successive game without loss.
SPAIN: Alaves seal a return to La Liga after a 10-year absence with a 2-0 win against Numancia.
SWITZERLAND: Four days after being relegated to the second tier, Zurich win the Swiss Cup with a 1-0 victory over Lugano.
UAE: Al Jazira beat Al Ain on penalties after a 1-1 draw in the President's Cup Final.
URUGUAY: Plaza Colonia clinch the Clausura with a 2-1 victory against Penarol, who they will now meet in the Championship play-off.
VENEZUELA: Zamora win the clausura title with a 4-2 aggregate victory over Deportivo Anzoategui.

Monday May 30

FRANCE: Paris Saint-Germain defender Serge Aurier is arrested in the early hours after an altercation with police as the 23-year-old Ivorian left a nightclub in the Champs Elysees area.
IRAN: Zob Ahan beat Esteghlal on penalties in the Hazfi Cup Final.
PORTUGAL: Porto announce coach Jose Peseiro will the leave the club by mutual consent.
SWEDEN: Slovenia hold the hosts to a goalless draw in Sweden's 1,000th international fixture.
SWITZERLAND: Capped for the first time on Saturday, in a 2-1 defeat by Belgium, 19-year-old Borussia Monchengladbach central defender Nico Elvedi is named in the 23-man squad for the Euro finals.

Tuesday May 31

COSTA RICA: Real Madrid keeper Keylor Navas is ruled out of the Copa America with an Achilles injury.
ENGLAND: Marcus Rashford and Daniel Sturridge make the squad for France, while Andros Townsend and Danny Drinkwater miss out.
GERMANY: On the day of his 27th birthday, Borussia Dortmund striker Marco Reus is left out of Germany's Euro squad due to fitness concerns. Bastian Schweinsteiger is included despite a knee injury that sidelined him for much of the second half of Manchester United's season.
REP OF IRELAND: Having made his debut in March 1996, goalkeeper Shay Given's 134th international ➤

Argentina

JOEL RICHARDS

Lanus lead the way

Champions win title with style

In the short-season format, Argentina has seen 11 different champions in the past 10 years and it is roundly agreed that crippling debt has levelled the playing field. And while River Plate and Boca Juniors still culturally dominate coverage of the nation's number one sport, they no longer transfer that dominance onto the pitch.

Of those 11 champions, only Lanus have qualified for international competition every year, allowing the modest club to boast continued high performance levels found at few other clubs. Boca, for example, qualified in just five of those years.

Lanus were impressive champions this year in a quick-fire championship designed to facilitate the league's transition from the aberration of the 30-club division that directors – with the microphone switched off – admit they still fail to fully comprehend.

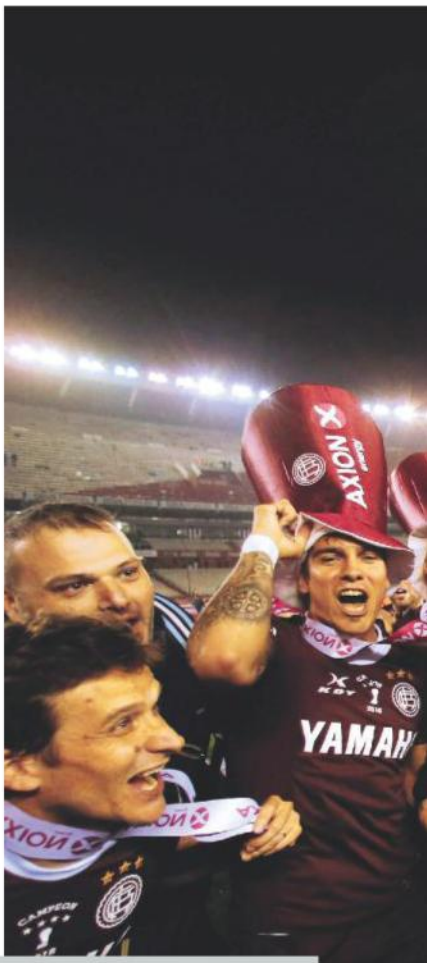
For this season, the 30 teams were split into two zones, with the winners facing each other in a play-off.

Despite an excellent campaign by Godoy Cruz, San Lorenzo won Zone A on the last match day. Yet though coach Pablo Guede brought fresh ideas to the team that won the Libertadores Cup in 2014, his side were thrashed 4-0 by Zone B winners Lanus in the Final.

Lanus scored the more goals and conceded fewer than any team in either zone and as their coach Jorge Almiron, who was sacked a year ago by Independiente, noted: "People who used to say how bad I was now say how well Lanus play."

Almiron's team played with verve and ambition, employing an attacking 4-3-3 line-up that built upon foundations that Lanus have carefully nurtured over the past decade, ever since Ramon Cabrero – who is still at the club in an advisory role – coached the side to a first-ever title in 2007.

Play-off Final...Roman Martinez takes on San Lorenzo



Stylish...Lanus lift the title

> "People who used to say how bad I was now say how well Lanus play"
> Lanus coach Jorge Almiron

This year's champions included three veterans from that campaign in their side, including striker Jose Sand, who was once again the league top scorer, with 15 goals. "We were the best side and we showed great character," says Sand.

Lanus' resolve will now be tested by the offers that are expected to arrive from abroad for several of their talented youngsters who impressed throughout the season, with Paraguayan left-winger Miguel Almiron, centre-back Gustavo Gomez and forward Oscar Benitez all outstanding.

After yet another season of "transition", there are major changes afoot for Argentina's league system.

"The superleague starts in August," revealed River president Rodolfo D'Onofrio on the steps of the Argentinian FA headquarters and the ambitious idea is to match the European leagues' calendar and multiply clubs' revenue. A representative of the Spanish league travelled to Buenos Aires to share their experience, but the Argentinian version is likely to be far more egalitarian in its income distribution than its Iberian counterpart.

To provide a product worthy of the sums of money the clubs hope to attract, there are great challenges

ahead – such as, what to do with away supporters.

It is now three years since visiting fans were banned across the board in all divisions in Argentina. That measure, designed to combat and eradicate football-related violence, has roundly failed.

In early June, the leader of the infamous Newell's Old Boys' barra brava Matias Franchetti was shot dead in front of the club's main gate. The case is illustrative of the endemic problem that the game faces. Franchetti, who had been implicated in drug-trafficking cases, took control of the Newell's hardcore element when his predecessor was jailed for the murder of his predecessor.

The hope among directors is to triple income through the superleague, but to do so the product must vastly improve. Turbulence at the AFA – government intervention looked set to threaten Argentina's participation in the Copa America at one point – does not help decision making.

Unattractive empty stands are just one problem the marketing department will have to brush over. The football on show is poor, with Lanus one of the few sides in recent years to stick in the collective memory for attractive attacking football.

The superleague will not offer a panacea, but if it delivers in increasing income it could be part of a solution for clubs myriad problems. WS

SEASON'S MAIN MEN

COACH OF THE SEASON
After a disappointing spell in charge at Independiente, **Jorge Almiron** won his first title as coach, with his Lanus side playing stylish brand of football.

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
At 35, **Jose Sand** maybe in the twilight of his career, but the well-travelled striker's goals powered Lanus to the title.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Nicknamed the "Paraguayan Di Maria", Lanus winger **Miguel Almiron** likes to take players on and expects to be appearing in Europe soon.

➤ appearance, in a 2-1 loss to Belarus, sees him join an exclusive group of players whose international careers have spanned over 20 years.

Wednesday June 1

BRAZIL: Kaka, who was hoping to make his Copa America debut after being called up in place of the injured Douglas Costa, suffers a hamstring injury and is himself replaced by Paulo Henrique Ganso.
RUSSIA: Ukrainian-born Roman Neustadter, who won two caps for Germany, makes his Russia debut in a 2-1 defeat by Czech Republic.
SPAIN: Nolito scores twice for the second time in two games as Spain beat South Korea 6-1. Sergio Rico makes his debut in goal for Spain as a second-half sub.

Thursday June 2

ALGERIA: A 2-0 win in Seychelles sees Algeria book their place in next year's African Nations Cup finals.
ENGLAND: Manchester City sign Ilkay Gundogan from Borussia Dortmund for a reported £20m.
GERMANY: Markus Weinzierl leaves Augsburg to become coach of Schalke on a three-year deal.
MONTENEGRO: Rudar win their fourth Montenegrin Cup, beating Buducnost on penalties after a goalless 120 minutes.
PORTUGAL: Bruno Alves is sent off in a 1-0 friendly loss against England at Wembley but will not be suspended for Portugal's opening Euro game.

Friday June 3

CAMEROON: A 1-0 win against Mauritania secures Cameroon's place in the African Nations Cup finals next year.
COLOMBIA: Goals from Cristian Zapata and James Rodriguez give Colombia a 2-0 win over hosts USA in the Copa America opener.
KOSOVO: Playing their first official international since being accepted as a member of UEFA in early May, Kosovo beat Faroe Islands 2-0.
ROMANIA: Anghel Iordanescu takes charge of Romania for a record 97th time as they beat Georgia 5-1.
UKRAINE: At the age of 37, Anatoliy Tymoshchuk wins his 143rd cap in a 3-1 win against Albania.

Saturday June 4

AUSTRIA: A 2-0 loss at home to Holland is Austria's third defeat in five games since qualifying for the Euro finals.
CROATIA: A 10-0 victory over San Marino is Croatia's biggest win in a senior international.
EGYPT: A 2-0 win away against ➤

➤ Tanzania sees Egypt qualify for the finals of the African Nations Cup the first time since 2010.
GERMANY: Bastian Schweinsteiger makes his first appearance for club or country in over two months, appearing as a substitute as Germany beat Hungary 2-0.
NORTHERN IRELAND: Aaron Hughes wins his 100th cap in Northern Ireland's goalless draw away to Slovakia.
PERU: Paolo Guerrero's goal in a 1-0 Copa America victory over Haiti is his 27th for his country, taking him past Teofilo Cubillas as Peru's all-time leading scorer.
SENEGAL: A 2-0 win in Burundi secures Senegal's place at next year's African Nations Cup finals.

Sunday June 5

CZECH REPUBLIC: Theodor Gebre Selassie is dismissed for two yellow cards in the Czech Republic's 2-1 defeat by South Korea.
GABON: Goals from Andre Ayew and Christian Atsu see Ghana beat Mauritius 2-0 to confirm their place at the African Nations Cup finals.
GUINEA-BISSAU: Kenya's 2-1 victory over Congo means Guinea-Bissau, who beat Zambia 3-2 on Saturday, qualify for the finals of the African Nations Cup for the first time.
MEXICO: The appearance of Rafa Marquez in Mexico's 3-1 victory over Uruguay means he has now played in six Copa Americas.
RUSSIA: Holding midfielder Igor Denisov suffers a hamstring injury in Russia's 1-1 draw with Serbia and looks set to miss Euro 2016.
TURKEY: Burak Yilmaz scores the only goal of the game against Slovenia to become Turkey's fourth-highest scorer of all time with 20.
VENEZUELA: Rafael Dudamel gets his first win in an official tournament as national coach with a 1-0 victory over Jamaica in the Copa America.
ZIMBABWE: A 3-0 victory over Malawi means that Zimbabwe qualify for the African Nations Cup finals for the first time since 2006.

Monday June 6

ALBANIA: UEFA exclude league winners Skenderbeu from next season's Champions League for match-fixing. Runners-up Partizani Tirana will take their place.
ARGENTINA: Lionel Messi is an unused substitute as Argentina open

Uruguay

TIM VICKERY

Plaza Colonia win clausura

Minnows make their mark with shock triumph

In this season's Torneo Clausura, there was a Leicester-style fairy tale with a melancholic Uruguayan twist. Across the River Plate from Buenos Aires, Colonia is a pretty, historic little town which is home to Club Plaza de Deportes Colonia. For decades they were a tiny amateur club, before turning professional and taking part in the country's second division for the first time in 2000. They quickly won promotion to the top flight, but went back down in 2005, and the following year did not even have enough money to take their place in the competition.

Plaza Colonia finally made it back to the first division last year, and staying up was the limit of their ambitions – especially when, in the apertura, they finished 13th out of 16.

So when the clausura kicked off early this year, the plan was to pick up enough points to ensure salvation.

As coach, Eduardo Espinel concentrated on instilling the traditional virtues of the underdog, believing in organisation, defensive solidity and collective spirit.

And his young team, with an average age of just 23, responded.

A good start to the campaign meant they topped the table after four games – and in a competition of only 15 rounds, the finishing line is never far away. But even so, it looked as if their chance had all but gone when Plaza Colonia went into the final round of matches needing an away win: they were at Penarol, the reigning champions and a giant of Uruguayan football who were looking to celebrate the title themselves with a lap of honour in their newly inaugurated Estadio Campeon del Siglo ("champions of the century stadium").

Plaza Colonia, however, stayed true to the virtues that had served them so well throughout the season: the assurance of keeper Kevin Dawson, the covering and work rate of holding midfielder Matias Caseras, the pace of provider Nicolas Dibble, and Argentinian striker German Rivero's nose for goal.

And at the end of the afternoon, it was the visitors who were celebrating after they claimed a deserved 2-1 victory.

Yet although they won the clausura, it is really only half a championship.

In Uruguay, the apertura and clausura winners meet in a one-off semi-final for the right to play a two-legged decider against the team that accumulated the most points over the two campaigns.

In practice, for Plaza Colonia this meant that they had to play Penarol again – for the right to

Collective spirit...Plaza Colonia coach Eduardo Espinel

Upset...Plaza Colonia celebrate winning the clausura away to Penarol

their Copa America campaign with a 2-1 victory over holders Chile in a re-run of last year's Final.
ITALY: Chinese retail giant Suning Commerce Group buys a 68.55 per cent share in Internazionale.
PANAMA: With a 2-1 victory over Bolivia, Panama become the fourth team in Copa America history to win on their debut in the tournament.

Tuesday June 7

BOSNIA: Milan Duric scores both goals as Bosnia beat Japan 2-1 in the Final of the Kirin Cup.
COLOMBIA: A 2-1 victory over Paraguay sees Colombia become the first team to qualify for the Copa America quarter-finals.
ENGLAND: Everton agree a deal with Southampton to make Ronald Koeman their new manager.
ITALY: Giampiero Ventura will become national coach after Euro 2016. Francesco Totti signs a one-year contract extension with Roma.
REP IRELAND: Republic of Ireland manager Martin O'Neill and assistant Roy Keane agree contract extensions until the 2018 World Cup.
RUSSIA: Artur Yusupov is added to Russia's Euro 2016 squad as a replacement for Igor Denisov.
SPAIN: Georgia win 1-0 in Getafe to end Spain's 11-game unbeaten run.
USA: Clint Dempsey's goal in the 4-0 Copa America victory over Costa Rica was his 50th for the US.

Wednesday June 8

BRAZIL: Philippe Coutinho scores a hat-trick as Brazil win 7-1 to knock Haiti out of the Copa America.
PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Hosts Papua New Guinea reach the OFC Nations Cup Final for the first time with a 2-1 win against Solomon Islands.
PORTUGAL: Cristiano Ronaldo makes his 126th appearance for his country – one shy of Luis Figo's national record – and scores twice as Portugal thrash Estonia 7-0.

Thursday June 9

MEXICO: Javier Hernandez and Oribe Peralta give Mexico a 2-0 victory over Jamaica and put them in the Copa America quarter-finals.
URUGUAY: The 15-time champions are knocked out of this year's Copa America, losing 1-0 to Venezuela. Maxi Pereira becomes Uruguay's all-time record appearance holder, winning his 113th cap. WS

Champion... Penarol captain Carlos Valdez

meet Penarol in a Final decider.

If successful, Plaza Colonia would take the title out of Montevideo for the first time ever. Since the professional era began in the early 1930s, almost all of the titles have been won by Penarol or their great rivals Nacional. There have also been four wins each for Defensor and Danubio, and one-off triumphs for Central Espanol, Bella Vista and Progreso.

Ahead of the play-off, Penarol coach Jorge Da Silva claimed Plaza Colonia were actually favourites, pointing out that they were the form team having finished top of the clausura table. The Uruguayan press, meanwhile, enjoyed itself by playing up the David and Goliath aspect, pointing out the contrast between the Plaza Colonia players, some of whom cycled to training, and the likes of Diego Forlan, who was about to end his time with Penarol and was desperate to do so with a title.

The venue for the play-off clash was the Centenario stadium, built for the 1930 World Cup and the scene of so many Penarol triumphs. Plaza took the lead through Alejandro Furia, but Penarol were on top. Orchestrating from deep, Forlan opened up the defence and young substitute Diego Rossi equalised. In extra time Plaza had German Ferreira sent off before Maxi Olivera headed home Forlan's corner and another sub, Matias Affonso, made it 3-1 to Penarol.

Goliath may have triumphed, but David's achievements in 2016 will not be forgotten in Uruguay. WS

ESM TEAM OF THE SEASON 2015-16

BASED ON NUMBER OF APPEARANCES IN THE ESM TEAM OF THE MONTH

HOW IT WORKS

Every month, journalists from each member of the European Sports Media group select their first XI based on the best individual performances from Europe's top competitions. For details of how each ESM member voted, visit worldsoccer.com/esm11

SEASON RANKINGS

GOALKEEPERS

Keylor NAVAS (Real Madrid)	23 votes
Gianluigi BUFFON (Juventus)	20
Jan OBLAK (Atletico Madrid)	19
Petr CECH (Arsenal)	10
Manuel NEUER (Bayern Munich)	7
Claudio BRAVO (Barcelona)	6
Kasper SCHMEICHEL (Leicester City)	5
David DE GEA (Manchester United)	4
Joe HART (Manchester City)	4
Pepe REINA (Napoli)	4
Gianluigi DONNARUMMA (Milan)	3
Samir HANDANOVIC (Internazionale)	3
Willy CABALLERO (Manchester City)	2
Ralf FAHRMANN (Schalke)	2
Kevin TRAPP (Paris Saint-Germain)	2
Alphonse AREOLA (Villarreal)	1
Thibaut COURTOIS (Chelsea)	1
Marwin HITZ (Augsburg)	1
Carlos KAMENI (Malaga)	1
Hugo LLORIS (Tottenham Hotspur)	1
Steve MANDANDA (Marseille)	1
Fernando MUSLERA (Galatasaray)	1
Hakon OPDAL (Start)	1
Sergio RICO (Sevilla)	1
Wojciech SZCZESNY (Roma)	1
Victor VALDES (Standard Liege)	1

DEFENDERS

Diego GODIN (Atletico Madrid)	38
MARCELO (Real Madrid)	25
FILIPE LUIS (Atletico Madrid)	24
Gerard PIQUE (Barcelona)	23
Leonardo BONUCCI (Juventus)	19
Philipp LAHM (Bayern Munich)	19
Sergio RAMOS (Real Madrid)	19
Mats HUMMELS (Borussia Dortmund)	17
DANI ALVES (Barcelona)	16
JUANFRAN (Atletico Madrid)	14
David ALABA (Bayern Munich)	13
Jerome BOATENG (Bayern Munich)	13
THIAGO SILVA (Paris Saint-Germain)	11
Toby ALDERWEIRELD (Tottenham Hotspur)	10
Serge AURIER (Paris Saint-Germain)	10
Robert HUTH (Leicester City)	10
Jordi ALBA (Barcelona)	9
Laurent KOSCIELNY (Arsenal)	9
Hector BELLERIN (Arsenal)	7
Lukasz PISZCZEK (Borussia Dortmund)	7
Raphael VARANE (Real Madrid)	7
Wes MORGAN (Leicester City)	7
ALEX SANDRO (Juventus)	6
Christian FUCHS (Leicester City)	6
Matthias GINTER (Borussia Dortmund)	6
Nicolas OTAMENDI (Manchester City)	6
Chris SMALLING (Manchester United)	6
Kalidou KOULIBALY (Napoli)	5
Jeison MURILLO (Internazionale)	5
Victor RUIZ (Villarreal)	5
Andrea BARZAGLI (Juventus)	4
DANILO (Real Madrid)	4
Alessandro FLORENZI (Roma)	4
Jose GIMENEZ (Atletico Madrid)	4
Nacho MONREAL (Arsenal)	4
PEPE (Real Madrid)	4
Dani CARVAJAL (Real Madrid)	3
Matteo DARMIAN (Manchester United)	3
JAVI MARTINEZ (Bayern Munich)	3
Stephan LICHTSTEINER (Juventus)	3
SOKRATIS (Borussia Dortmund)	3
Darijo SRNA (Shakhtar Donetsk)	3
Raul ALBIOL (Napoli)	2
Giorgio CHIELLINI (Juventus)	2
Nathaniel CLYNE (Liverpool)	2
Erik DURM (Borussia Dortmund)	2
Patrice EVRA (Juventus)	2
Branislav IVANOVIC (Chelsea)	2
Layvin KURZAWA (Paris Saint-Germain)	2
Miguel LAYUN (Porto)	2
MAXWELL (Paris Saint-Germain)	2
Mateo MUSACCHIO (Villarreal)	2
Mamadou SAKHO (Liverpool)	2
Marcel SCHMELZER (Borussia Dortmund)	2
Kurt ZOUMA (Chelsea)	2
Davide ASTORI (Fiorentina)	1
Juan BERNAT (Bayern Munich)	1
Daley BLIND (Manchester United)	1
Olivier BOSCAGLI (Napoli)	1
Alberto BOTIA (Olympiakos)	1
DAVID LUIZ (Paris Saint-Germain)	1

Papy DJILOBODJI (Werder Bremen)	1
FABIO COENTRAO (Monaco)	1
Roderic FILIPPI (GFC Ajaccio)	1
Jonas HECTOR (Cologne)	1
Elseid HYSAJ (Napoli)	1
Christophe JALLET (Lyon)	1
Joshua KIIMMICH (Bayern Munich)	1
Presnel KIMPEMBE (Paris Saint-Germain)	1
Aleksandar KOLAROV (Manchester City)	1
Vincent KOMPANY (Manchester City)	1
Julian KORB (Borussia Monchengladbach)	1
Sebastian LANGKAMP (Hertha Berlin)	1
Dejan LOVREN (Liverpool)	1
MAICON (Roma)	1
Hugo MALLO (Celta Vigo)	1
Adam MASINIA (Bologna)	1
MAURICIO (Lazio)	1
MIRANDA (Internazionale)	1
NALDO (Wolfsburg)	1
Erik PIETERS (Stoke City)	1
Baba RAHMAN (Chelsea)	1
Adil RAMI (Sevilla)	1
Winston REID (West Ham United)	1
Gonzalo RODRIGUEZ (Fiorentina)	1
Bacary SAGNA (Manchester City)	1
Nelson SEMEDO (Benfica)	1
SERGI Roberto (Barcelona)	1
Danny SIMPSON (Leicester City)	1
Martin SKRTEL (Liverpool)	1
Aytac SULU (Darmstadt)	1
Jonathan TAH (Bayer Leverkusen)	1
Alex TELLES (Internazionale)	1
John TERRY (Chelsea)	1
Patrick VAN AANHOLT (Sunderland)	1
Gregory VAN DER WIEL (Paris Saint-Germain)	1
Joel VELTMAN (Ajax)	1
Jan VERTONGHEN (Tottenham Hotspur)	1
Kyle WALKER (Tottenham Hotspur)	1
Oscar WENDT (Borussia Monchengladbach)	1
Dries WUYTENS (Willem II)	1

MIDFIELDERS

Paul POGBA (Juventus)	23
Mesut OZIL (Arsenal)	22
N'Golo KANTE (Leicester City)	21
Riyad MAHREZ (Leicester City)	21
Thomas MULLER (Bayern Munich)	20
Kevin DE BRUYNE (Manchester City)	18
DOUGLAS COSTA (Bayern Munich)	16
Angel DI MARIA (Paris Saint-Germain)	14
Sergio BUSQUETS (Barcelona)	12
CASEMIRO (Real Madrid)	12
Dmitri PAYET (West Ham United)	12
COKE (Sevilla)	11
Andres INIESTA (Barcelona)	11
Luka MODRIC (Real Madrid)	10
Philippe COUTINHO (Liverpool)	9
Henrykh MKHITARYAN (Borussia Dortmund)	9
SAUL NIGUEZ (Atletico Madrid)	8
Dele ALLI (Tottenham Hotspur)	7
GABI (Atletico Madrid)	6
Arturo VIDAL (Bayern Munich)	6
Danny DRINKWATER (Leicester City)	4
Toni KROOS (Real Madrid)	4
Hakan CALHANOGLU (Bayer Leverkusen)	3
FELIPE MELO (Internazionale)	3
KOKE (Atletico Madrid)	3
Ivan RAKITIC (Barcelona)	3
Julian WEIGL (Borussia Dortmund)	3
XABI ALONSO (Bayern Munich)	3
Jose CALLEJON (Napoli)	2
Kingsley COMAN (Bayern Munich)	2
Francis COQUELIN (Arsenal)	2
Mahmoud DAHOOD (Borussia M'gladbach)	2
Stephan EL SHAARAWY (Roma)	2
Christian ERIKSEN (Tottenham Hotspur)	2
Yannick FERREIRA CARRASCO (At Madrid)	2
JORGINHO (Napoli)	2
Gary MEDEL (Internazionale)	2
Miralem PJANIC (Roma)	2
Adrien RABIOT (Paris Saint-Germain)	2
Marco REUS (Borussia Dortmund)	2
Mohamed SALAH (Roma)	2
David SILVA (Manchester City)	2
TIAGO (Atletico Madrid)	2
ADRIEN SILVA (Sporting Lisbon)	1
ANDRE ANDRE (Porto)	1
Ross BARKLEY (Everton)	1
Karim BELLARABI (Bayer Leverkusen)	1
Leonardo BITTENCOURT (Cologne)	1
Patrick CAPELLE (Angers)	1
Santi CAZORLA (Arsenal)	1
Denis CHERYSHEV (Valencia)	1
Mousa DEMBELE (Tottenham Hotspur)	1
Lassana DIARRA (Marseille)	1
Daniel DIDAVI (Stuttgart)	1
Eric DIER (Tottenham Hotspur)	1
Julian DRAXLER (Wolfsburg)	1
Cesc FABREGAS (Chelsea)	1
FELIPE ANDERSON (Lazio)	1
Matias FERNANDEZ (Fiorentina)	1
Jordan FERRI (Lyon)	1
Nicolas GAITAN (Benfica)	1
Fredy GUARIN (Internazionale)	1
Yevhen KONOPLYANKA (Sevilla)	1
Vincent KOZIELLO (Nice)	1
Erik LAMELA (Tottenham Hotspur)	1
Juan MATA (Manchester United)	1
Blaise MATUIDI (Paris Saint-Germain)	1
James MILNER (Liverpool)	1
Cheikh N'DOYE (Angers)	1
OSCAR (Chelsea)	1
Dennis PRAET (Anderlecht)	1
Aaron RAMSEY (Arsenal)	1
James RODRIGUEZ (Real Madrid)	1
Bryan RUIZ (Sporting Lisbon)	1
Marc STENDERA (Eintracht Frankfurt)	1
THIAGO ALCANTARA (Bayern Munich)	1
Yaya TOURE (Manchester City)	1
Borja VALERO (Fiorentina)	1
Marco VERRATTI (Paris Saint-Germain)	1
Daniel WASS (Celta Vigo)	1
Georginio WIJNALDUM (Newcastle United)	1
WILLIAN (Chelsea)	1

FORWARDS

Luis SUAREZ (Barcelona)	62
Gonzalo HIGUAIN (Napoli)	30
Lionel MESSI (Barcelona)	28
Robert LEWANDOWSKI (Bayern Munich)	25
Zlatan IBRAHIMOVIC (Paris Saint-Germain)	22
Cristiano RONALDO (Real Madrid)	22
NEYMAR (Barcelona)	21
Antoine GRIEZMANN (Atletico Madrid)	19
Jamie VARDY (Leicester City)	19
Pierre-Emerick AUBAMEYANG (B Dortmund)	18
Paulo DYBALA (Juventus)	12
Karim BENZEMA (Real Madrid)	10
Gareth BALE (Real Madrid)	8
Kevin GAMEIRO (Sevilla)	6
Anthony MARTIAL (Manchester United)	6
NOLITO (Celta Vigo)	6
Javier HERNANDEZ (Bayer Leverkusen)	5
JONAS (Benfica)	5
Hatem BEN ARFA (Nice)	4
Sergio AGUERO (Manchester City)	3
Julian BRANDT (Bayer Leverkusen)	3
Olivier GIROUD (Arsenal)	3
Marko ARNAUTOVIC (Stoke City)	2
Kevin GAMEIRO (Sevilla)	2
Odion IGHALO (Watford)	2
Romelu LUKAKU (Everton)	2
Alvaro MORATA (Juventus)	2
Fernando TORRES (Atletico Madrid)	2
ALEX TEIXEIRA (Shakhtar Donetsk)	1
Cedric BAKAMBU (Villarreal)	1
Borja BASTON (Eibar)	1
Andy CAROLL (West Ham United)	1
Roberto FIRMINO (Liverpool)	1
Rudy GESTEDE (Aston Villa)	1
Olivier GIROUD (Arsenal)	1
Mario GOMEZ (Besiktas)	1
Kelechi IHEANACHO (Manchester City)	1
Lorenzo INSIGNE (Napoli)	1
Harry KANE (Tottenham Hotspur)	1
Dirk KUYT (Feyenoord)	1
Massimo MACCARONE (Empoli)	1
Mario MANDZUKIC (Juventus)	1
Sadio MANE (Southampton)	1
Marcus RASHFORD (Manchester United)	1
Franck RIBERY (Bayern Munich)	1
Wayne ROONEY (Manchester United)	1
Nolan ROUX (Saint-Etienne)	1
Alexis SANCHEZ (Arsenal)	1
Leroy SANE (Schalke)	1
Islam SLIMANI (Sporting Lisbon)	1

**Jan Oblak (Atletico Madrid) and Gianlugi Buffon (Juventus) also had two appearances, but Navas had more individual votes during the season*

*** Roberto Lewandowski (Bayern Munich), Neymar (Barcelona), Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (Borussia Dortmund), Thomas Muller (Bayern Munich), Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Paris Saint-Germain) and Paulo Dybala (Juventus) also had two appearances, but Messi had more individual votes during the season*

ESM – EUROPEAN SPORTS MEDIA

The members of ESM are: A Bola (Portugal), Elf (Holland), Fanatik (Turkey), Frankfurter Allegmeine Zeitung (Germany), Goal News (Greece), Kicker (Germany), Marca (Spain), Nemzeti Sport (Hungary), So Foot (France), Sport (Belgium), Sport Express (Russia), De Telegraaf (Holland), TIPSbladet (Denmark), World Soccer (England). More details of votes at **worldsoccer.com/votes**

MAY 2016

Here is the final team of the month, as voted for by ESM members:

Club football

EUROPE

ALBANIA

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skenderbeu (C)	36	25	4	7	73	27	79
Partizani	36	21	11	4	51	21	74
Kukesi	36	18	9	9	41	25	63
Teuta	36	18	9	9	43	28	63
KF Tirana	36	13	14	9	37	25	53
Vllaznia	36	11	6	19	36	42	39
Laci	36	8	12	16	30	48	36
Flamurtari[1]	36	9	11	16	34	44	35
Bylis (R)	36	8	8	20	27	53	32
Terbuni (R)	36	4	6	26	22	81	18

[1]3pts deducted for failing to pay debt to former player in time

ANDORRA

Division split after 14-round regular season; teams carried forward full regular-season record

2015-16 – CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC S Coloma (C)	20	14	5	1	44	8	47
Lusitans	20	12	3	5	37	28	39
Sant Julia	20	9	5	6	41	20	32
UE S Coloma	20	8	6	6	34	20	30

2015-16 – RELEGATION GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Engordany	20	9	2	9	37	34	29
Ordino	20	8	2	10	32	44	26
Encamp[1]	20	4	4	12	22	50	16
Penya E'da[2] (R)	20	1	3	16	15	58	3

[1]Stay in top division after being awarded victory in the rel/prom play-off
[2]3pts deducted

ARMENIA

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alashkert (C)	28	16	7	5	50	24	55
Shirak	28	15	7	6	41	27	52
Pyunik	28	13	9	6	44	21	48
Gandzasar	28	11	12	5	35	27	45
Ararat	28	9	10	9	28	31	37
Banants	28	7	12	9	36	34	33
Mika	28	9	5	14	30	32	32
Ulisses[1]	28	0	2	26	8	76	2

[1]Expelled mid-season and had all remaining games awarded 3-0 defeats against them

AUSTRIA

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Salzburg (C)	36	21	11	4	71	33	74
Rapid	36	20	5	11	66	42	65
Austria	36	17	8	11	65	48	59
Admira	36	13	11	12	45	51	50
Sturm	36	12	12	12	40	40	48
Wolfsberger	36	11	10	15	33	36	43
Ried	36	11	9	16	36	52	42
Altach	36	11	7	18	39	49	40
Mattersburg	36	10	9	17	40	70	39
Grodig (R)	36	9	8	19	42	56	35

AZERBAIJAN

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Qarabag (C)	36	26	6	4	66	21	84
Zira	36	17	11	8	42	31	62
Qabala	36	16	11	9	44	28	59
Inter	36	16	11	9	39	28	59
Kapaz	36	15	11	10	48	40	56
Neftchi	36	13	10	13	41	41	49
AZAL	36	13	7	16	26	38	46
Sumqayit	36	9	12	15	41	49	39
Ravan[1]	36	5	9	22	27	63	18
Khazar (R)	36	3	6	27	16	51	15

[1]6pts deducted

BELGIUM

2015-16 – REGULAR – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Brugge	30	21	1	8	64	30	64
Gent	30	17	9	4	56	29	60
Anderlecht	30	15	10	5	51	29	55
Oostende	30	14	7	9	55	44	49
Genk	30	14	6	10	42	30	48
Zulte Waregem	30	12	7	11	51	50	43
Standard	30	12	5	13	41	51	41
Charleroi	30	10	9	11	36	39	39
Kortrijk	30	10	9	11	31	35	39
Mechelen	30	10	7	13	48	50	37
Lokeren	30	8	10	12	35	40	34
Waasland-Bev	30	9	6	15	40	57	33
St Truiden	30	8	6	16	28	47	30
Mouscron-P'z	30	7	9	14	39	51	30
Westerlo	30	7	9	14	35	59	30
OH Leuven (R)	30	7	8	15	42	53	29

Top 6 formed championship group; teams placed 7th to14th entered Europa League-place play-offs; 2nd bottom Westerlo did not enter any play-offs but will remain in top division next season; OH Leuven were relegated automatically after finishing bottom of the regular-season table

2015-16 – CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts[1]
Club Brugge (C)	10	7	1	2	25	9	54
Anderlecht	10	6	1	3	15	16	47
Gent	10	3	3	4	10	15	42
Genk	10	5	1	4	20	13	40
Oostende	10	3	2	5	14	19	36
Zulte Waregem	10	1	2	7	11	23	27

[1]Teams carried forward half their regular-season points (rounded up)

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zrinjski (C)	30	21	6	3	52	17	69
Sloboda Tuzla	30	19	5	6	44	23	62
Siroki Brijeg	30	18	7	5	56	21	61
Sarajevo	30	18	3	9	56	28	57
Zeljeznicar	30	16	7	7	36	20	55
Celik	30	12	10	8	35	28	46
Radnik	30	13	6	11	25	25	45
Olimpic	30	11	6	13	36	33	39
Vitez	30	11	6	13	36	41	39
Mladost DK	30	10	9	11	29	39	39
Borac BL (R)	30	10	6	14	27	33	36
Slavija (R)	30	8	11	11	25	37	35
Travnik (R)	30	8	5	17	36	47	29
Rudar P'dor (R)	30	5	10	15	24	38	25
Drina Zv'nik (R)	30	7	1	22	24	66	22
Velez (R)	30	1	6	23	10	55	9

BULGARIA

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ludogorets (C)	32	21	7	4	55	21	70
Levski	32	16	8	8	36	18	56
Beroe	32	14	11	7	37	27	53
Slavia	32	14	7	11	36	29	49
Lok Plovdiv	32	15	4	13	40	45	49
Cherno More	32	10	8	14	36	45	38
Botev Plovdiv	32	8	9	15	27	44	33
Pirin Blag'grad	32	5	11	16	27	45	26
Montana[1]	32	4	9	19	23	43	21
Lovech (R)[2]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1]Enter rel/prom play-off
[2]Expelled mid-season for abandoning a game in protest at referee decisions; results expunged

CROATIA

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo (C)	36	26	7	3	67	19	85
Rijeka	36	21	14	1	56	20	77
Hajduk	36	17	10	9	46	28	61
Lokomotiva	36	16	4	16	56	53	52
Inter	36	11	14	11	39	48	47
RNK Split	36	10	16	10	28	29	46
Slaven	36	10	12	14	41	42	42
Osijek	36	7	13	16	27	49	34
Istra 1961[1]	36	4	12	20	23	58	24
NK Zagreb (R)	36	3	8	25	27	64	17

[1]Stay in top division after winning rel/prom play-off

CYPRUS

Division split after 26-round regular season; teams carried forward full regular-season record
● Bottom 2 ENP & Ayia Napa relegated directly

2015-16 – CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
APOEL (C)	36	26	5	5	91	26	83
AEK	36	23	6	7	61	34	75
Apollon	36	19	11	6	61	36	68
Omonia N	36	20	7	9	63	34	67
Anorthosis	36	16	11	9	57	41	59
Nea Salamina	36	9	10	17	44	72	37

2015-16 – RELEGATION GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AEL[1]	36	14	7	15	38	43	47
Ermis	36	11	9	16	36	52	42
Doxa	36	10	11	15	46	59	41
Aris	36	10	11	15	43	46	41
Ethnikos	36	9	12	15	43	57	39
Pafos (R)	36	8	12	16	41	58	36

[1]2pts deducted for failing to meet financial criteria

CZECH REPUBLIC

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plzen (C)	30	23	2	5	57	25	71
Sparta	30	20	4	6	61	24	64
Liberec	30	17	7	6	51	35	58
Mlada Boleslav	30	16	9	5	63	37	57
Slavia	30	14	10	6	48	26	52
Brno	30	14	5	11	37	38	47
Jablonec	30	10	11	9	46	39	41
Slovacko	30	12	4	14	37	51	40
Boh'ians 1905	30	8	13	9	35	37	37
Dukla	30	8	11	11	44	41	35
Jihlava	30	8	7	15	31	54	31
Teplice	30	7	9	14	37	52	30
Zlin	30	7	9	14	34	50	30
Pribram	30	7	6	17	33	53	27
Olomouc (R)	30	6	9	15	35	49	27
Ostrava (R)	30	4	2	24	27	65	14

DENMARK

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Copenhag'n (C)	33	21	8	4	62	28	71
SonderjyskE	33	19	5	9	56	36	62
Midtjylland	33	17	8	8	57	33	59
Brondby	33	16	6	11	43	37	54
AaB	33	15	5	13	56	44	50
Randers	33	13	8	12	45	43	47
OB	33	14	4	15	50	52	46
Viborg	33	11	7	15	34	42	40
Nordsjaelland	33	11	5	17	35	51	38
AGF	33	8	13	12	47	49	37
Esbjerg	33	7	9	17	38	64	30
Hobro (R)	33	4	6	23	26	70	18

GEORGIA

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo Tb'i (C)	30	25	1	4	74	29	76
Samtredia	30	20	3	7	66	32	63
Dila	30	19	5	6	51	25	62
Chikhura	30	17	6	7	53	26	57
Sioni	30	14	8	8	50	34	50
Torpedo	30	14	6	10	50	42	48
Tskhinvali	30	12	10	8	51	36	46
Dinamo Bat'mi	30	12	8	10	41	32	44
Saburtalo	30	11	6	13	47	61	39
Shukura	30	9	8	13	28	39	35
Guria	30	6	9	15	28	49	27
Kolkheti Poti	30	7	6	17	21	41	27
Lokomotivi	30	5	10	15	26	37	25
Zugdidi[1]	30	5	8	17	30	60	23
Merani (R)	30	5	8	17	28	62	23
Sapovnela (R)	30	5	6	19	24	63	21

[1]Stay in top division after winning rel/prom play-off

GIBRALTAR

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lincoln RI (C)	27	25	1	1	130	9	76
Europa	27	21	2	4	82	18	65
St Joseph's	27	14	3	10	50	37	45
Lions Gibraltar	27	14	3	10	49	44	45
Lynx	27	11	2	14	37	40	35
Manchester 62	27	9	5	13	41	49	32
Glacis Utd	27	10	2	15	40	67	32
Gibraltar Utd	27	9	2	16	28	57	29
Britannia (R)[1]	27	8	2	17	35	84	26
Angels (R)	27	3	0	24	20	107	9

[1]Relegated after losing rel/prom play-off

GREECE

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos (C)	30	28	1	1	81	16	85
Panathinaikos[1]	30	18	4	8	52	26	55
AEK[1]	30	17	6	7	43	21	54
PAOK[1, 2]	30	13	9	8	45	32	45
Panionios	30	12	8	10	33	27	44
Giannina	30	12	6	12	36	40	42
Asteras	30	11	8	11	31	30	41
Atromitos[1]	30	12	6	12	26	31	39
Platanias	30	10	9	11	32	30	39
Levadiakos	30	9	10	11	27	36	37
Panetolikos	30	9	8	13	30	46	35
Iraklis	30	8	11	11	24	32	35
Xanthi	30	6	15	9	27	32	33
Veria	30	5	12	13	19	33	27
Panthrak'os (R)	30	3	8	19	18	58	17
Kalloni (R)	30	3	7	20	19	53	16

[1]3pts deducted for fan violence
[2]PAOK take Greece's 2nd Champions League place after winning the post-season play-offs mini-league for the teams finishing 2nd to 5th in the final table

HOLLAND

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV (C)	34	26	6	2	88	32	84
Ajax	34	25	7	2	81	21	82
Feyenoord	34	19	6	9	62	40	63
AZ	34	18	5	11	70	53	59
Utrecht	34	15	8	11	57	48	53
Heracles	34	14	9	11	47	49	51
Groningen	34	14	8	12	41	48	50
Zwolle	34	14	6	14	56	54	48
Vitesse	34	12	10	12	55	38	46
NEC	34	13	7	14	37	42	46
Den Haag	34	10	13	11	48	49	43
Heerenveen	34	11	9	14	46	61	42
Twente (R)[1]	34	12	7	15	49	64	40
Roda JC	34	8	10	16	34	55	34
Excelsior	34	7	9	18	34	60	30
Willem II[2]	34	6	11	17	35	53	29
De Gr'fschap[3]	34	5	8	21	39	66	23
Cambuur (R)	34	3	9	22	33	79	18

[1]Relegated (and had 3pts deducted) for breaching financial regulations; pending appeal
[2]Stay in top division after winning their rel/prom play-offs
[3]Lost in the rel/prom play-offs, which would normally have meant relegation, but stay in top division following Twente's demotion (pending appeal decision)

HUNGARY

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ferencvaros (C)	33	24	4	5	69	23	76
Videoton	33	17	4	12	42	29	55
Debrecen	33	14	11	8	48	34	53
MTK	33	14	9	10	39	37	51
Haladas	33	13	11	9	33	37	50
Ujpest	33	11	13	9	42	37	46
Paks	33	12	7	14	41	40	43
Honved	33	12	7	14	40	39	43
Diosgyor	33	10	8	15	37	47	38
Vasas	33	9	5	19	32	54	32
Puskas Ac (R)	33	7	10	16	35	51	31
Bekescsaba (R)	33	6	9	18	25	55	27

ISRAEL

Division split after 26-round regular season; teams carried forward full regular-season record

2015-16 – CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beer Sheva (C)	36	25	8	3	66	24	83
Mac Tel Aviv	36	24	9	3	76	24	81
Beitar J'sam[1]	36	18	6	12	46	37	58
Mac Haifa	36	14	11	11	45	42	53
Bnei Sakhnin	36	13	9	14	46	40	48
Ra'anana	36	11	9	16	38	48	42

[1]2pts deducted because fans made racist chants

2015-16 – RELEGATION GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
M Petah Tikva	33	13	7	13	34	35	46
Bnei Yehuda	33	13	7	13	37	43	46
Hap Tel Aviv	33	10	12	11	30	37	42
Kfar Saba	33	9	11	13	23	37	38
Kiryat Shmona	33	8	12	13	32	39	36
Hap Haifa	33	7	13	13	38	48	34
Acre (R)	33	9	7	17	27	48	34
Netanya (R)	33	1	9	23	14	50	12

LUXEMBOURG

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
F91 (C)	26	19	5	2	65	21	62
Fola	26	19	5	2	61	23	62
Differdange	26	17	4	5	63	32	55
Jeunesse E	26	13	7	6	48	30	46
Strassen	26	11	5	10	50	50	38
Progres	26	10	6	10	41	30	36
Mondorf	26	10	6	10	36	34	36
Racing	26	10	5	11	45	54	35
Hamm Benfica	26	9	7	10	52	49	34
Rumelange	26	8	4	14	38	52	28
Victoria	26	7	5	14	46	49	26
Wiltz (R)[1]	26	5	6	15	22	60	21
Etzella (R)	26	4	5	17	25	70	17
Grev'cher (R)	26	3	4	19	15	53	13

[1]Relegated after losing rel/prom play-off

MACEDONIA

Division split after 27-round regular season; teams carried forward full regular-season record

2015-16 – CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vardar (C)	32	25	5	2	67	17	80
Shkendija	32	23	6	3	74	24	75
Sileks	32	12	8	12	35	40	44
Rabotnicki	32	10	13	9	36	30	43
Shkupi	32	9	11	12	29	34	38
Bregalnica	32	10	8	14	42	49	38

2015-16 – RELEGATION GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Renova	33	13	8	12	49	42	47
Turnovo (R)[1]	33	12	10	11	45	43	46
Metalurg (R)	33	5	4	24	27	66	19
Mladost CD (R)	33	6	1	26	22	81	19

[1]Relegated after losing rel/prom play-off

MALTA

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts[1]
Valletta (C)	33	25	4	4	69	27	53
Hibernians	33	22	8	3	85	33	49
Birkirkara	33	20	8	5	64	29	47
Balzan	33	20	6	7	69	33	44
Floriana	33	18	4	11	60	42	39
Tarxien	33	15	8	10	59	31	35
Sliema	33	12	6	15	49	51	30
Pembroke	33	10	6	17	48	61	24
Mosta	33	10	7	16	42	60	22
St Andrews[2]	33	4	3	26	32	90	13
Naxxar (R)	33	5	4	24	29	95	12
Qormi (R)	33	3	4	26	26	80	9

[1]Points totals were halved (rounded up) after the first 22 rounds; points gained in the final 11 rounds were retained in full
[2]Stay in top division after winning rel/prom play-off

MOLDOVA

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dacia[1]	27	20	5	2	44	12	65
Sheriff[1]	27	20	5	2	50	11	65
Zimbru	27	15	4	8	42	26	49
Zaria	27	12	6	9	36	29	42
Dinamo-Auto	27	12	5	10	33	34	41
Milsami	27	10	6	11	33	23	36
Speranta	27	8	7	12	24	36	31
Petrocub	27	6	3	18	21	53	21
Academia (R)	27	5	6	16	18	42	21
Saxan (R)	27	1	5	21	10	45	8

[1]Entered championship decider after finishing level on points (no separating factors considered)

2015-16 Championship Decider
May 29: Sheriff 1 Dacia 0.

MONTENEGRO

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mladost (C)	33	21	4	8	53	28	67
Buducnost	33	19	6	8	48	21	63
Rudar	33	16	10	7	39	26	58
Bokelj	33	17	5	11	43	28	56
Sutjeska	33	15	9	9	46	31	54
Decic	33	11	6	16	38	49	39
Grbalj	33	11	5	17	38	49	38
Zeta	33	10	8	15	37	42	38
Lovcen	33	9	9	15	32	42	36
Iskra[1]	33	7	13	13	29	51	34
Petrovac[1]	33	8	9	16	33	51	33
Mornar (R)	33	9	6	18	30	48	33

[1]Enter rel/prom play-offs

NORTHERN IRELAND

Division split after 33-round regular season; teams carried forward full regular-season record

2015-16 – CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crusaders (C)	38	28	7	3	79	28	91
Linfield	38	26	5	7	91	35	83
Glenavon	38	20	9	9	72	40	69
Cliftonville	38	18	10	10	58	53	64
Coleraine	38	18	4	16	47	46	58
Glentoran	38	15	7	16	46	55	52

2015-16 – RELEGATION GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dungannon	38	12	7	19	51	66	43
Ballymena	38	11	7	20	57	81	40
Portadown	38	11	5	22	43	67	38
Carrick	38	8	11	19	43	68	35
Ball'mallard[1]	38	9	7	22	39	59	34
Warrenp'nt (R)	38	9	7	22	45	73	34

[1]Enter rel/prom play-off

POLAND

Division split after 30-round regular season; teams carried forward half regular-season pts (rounded up) but the rest of regular-season record in full

2015-16 – CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Legia (C)	37	21	10	6	70	32	43
Piast	37	20	9	8	60	45	40
Zaglebie Lubin	37	17	9	11	55	42	38
Cracovia	37	16	10	11	66	50	36
Lechia	37	14	10	13	53	44	32
Pogon Szcz'cin	37	12	17	8	43	43	30
Lech	37	14	6	17	42	47	27
Ruch	37	11	8	18	40	60	21

2015-16 – RELEGATION GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wisla Krakow	37	12	15	10	61	45	32
Slask	37	12	12	13	41	46	31
Jagiellonia	37	13	6	18	46	62	28
Korona	37	10	15	12	39	45	27
Niecieczа	37	10	12	15	39	50	26
Gornik Leczna	37	10	9	18	40	53	24
Gornik Z'ze (R)	37	6	18	13	38	51	23
Podbesk'ie (R)	37	9	12	16	45	63	20

PORTUGAL

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica (C)	34	29	1	4	88	22	88
Sporting	34	27	5	2	79	21	86
Porto	34	23	4	7	67	30	73
Braga	34	16	10	8	54	35	58
Arouca	34	13	15	6	47	38	54
Rio Ave	34	14	8	12	44	44	50
Pacos Ferreira	34	13	10	11	43	42	49
Estoril	34	13	8	13	40	41	47
Belenenses	34	10	11	13	44	66	41
Vit Guimaraes	34	9	13	12	45	53	40
Nacional	34	10	8	16	40	56	38
Moreirense	34	9	9	16	38	54	36
Maritimo	34	10	5	19	45	63	35
Boavista	34	8	9	17	24	41	33
Vit Setubal	34	6	12	16	40	61	30
Tondela	34	8	6	20	34	54	30
Un Madeira (R)	34	7	8	19	27	50	29
Academica (R)	34	5	10	19	32	60	25

ROMANIA

Division split after 26-round regular season; teams carried forward half their points (rounded up)

2015-16 – CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Astra (C)	10	7	1	2	20	9	48
Steaua	10	6	3	1	18	8	43
Pandurii	10	3	6	1	12	7	39
Dinamo	10	2	6	2	12	15	36
Viitorul	10	1	3	6	14	21	29
Targu Mures	10	0	3	7	8	24	22

2015-16 – RELEGATION GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSM Stud'tesc	14	5	5	4	17	15	39
CSU Craiova	14	7	2	5	19	17	39
Botosani	14	7	4	3	29	19	38
CFR	14	6	4	4	25	13	36
Concordia	14	7	5	2	19	13	35
Voluntari[1]	14	5	2	7	19	20	29
Poli (R)	14	1	4	9	14	36	20
Petrolul (R)	14	4	2	8	9	18	18

[1]Enter rel/prom play-offs

RUSSIA

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA (C)	30	20	5	5	51	25	65
Rostov	30	19	6	5	41	20	63
Zenit	30	17	8	5	61	32	59
Krasnodar	30	16	8	6	54	25	56
Spartak	30	15	5	10	48	39	50
Lokomotiv	30	14	8	8	43	33	50
Terek	30	11	11	8	35	30	44
Ural	30	10	9	11	39	46	39
Kryliya Sov	30	9	8	13	19	31	35
Rubin	30	9	6	15	33	39	33
Amkar	30	7	10	13	22	33	31
Ufa	30	6	9	15	25	44	27
Anzhi[1]	30	6	8	16	28	50	26
Kuban (R)[2]	30	5	11	14	34	44	26
Dynamo (R)	30	5	10	15	25	47	25
Mordovia (R)	30	4	12	14	30	50	24

[1]Stay in top division after winning rel/prom play-off
[2]Relegated after losing rel/prom play-off

SAN MARINO

2015-16 Championship Final
May 26: Tre Penne 3 La Fiorita 1.

SCOTLAND

Division split after 33-round regular season; teams carried forward full regular-season record

2015-16 – CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic (C)	38	26	8	4	93	31	86
Aberdeen	38	22	5	11	62	48	71
Hearts	38	18	11	9	59	40	65
St Johnstone	38	16	8	14	58	55	56
Motherwell	38	15	5	18	47	63	50
Ross County	38	14	6	18	55	61	48

2015-16 – RELEGATION GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inverness	38	14	10	14	54	48	52
Dundee	38	11	15	12	53	57	48
Partick	38	12	10	16	41	50	46
Hamilton	38	11	10	17	42	63	43
Kilmarnock[1]	38	9	9	20	41	64	36
Dundee Utd[2] (R)	38	8	7	23	45	70	28

[1]Stay in top division after winning rel/prom play-off
[2]3pts deducted for breach of rules

SERBIA

Division split after 30-round regular season; teams carried forward only half their points (rounded up) but the rest of their regular-season record in full

2015-16 – CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Red Star (C)	37	30	5	2	97	27	54
Partizan	37	20	7	10	72	44	40
Cukaricki	37	19	8	10	48	35	39
Vojvodina	37	16	11	10	57	44	36
Radnicki Nis	37	16	9	12	40	35	35
Borac	37	14	11	12	46	43	30
Vozdovac	37	11	12	14	34	36	25
Radnik	37	11	11	15	41	65	25

2015-16 – RELEGATION GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mladost	37	11	14	12	34	44	31
Spartak	37	11	11	15	37	42	29
Metalac	37	10	15	12	41	48	28
Rad	37	9	13	15	40	47	27
Javor	37	10	13	14	25	29	26
Novi Pazar	37	10	10	17	29	50	25
OFK (R)	37	9	5	23	38	58	18
Jagodina (R)	37	5	13	19	29	61	15

SLOVAKIA

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trencin (C)	33	26	3	4	73	28	81
Slovan Brat'va	33	20	9	4	50	25	69
Spartak Myj'va	33	18	6	9	41	33	60
Spartak Trn'va	33	16	6	11	49	41	54
Zilina	33	14	6	13	58	46	48
Ruzomberok	33	12	9	12	42	41	45
Dun'ska Streda	33	12	7	14	38	42	43
Podbrezova	33	10	7	16	43	46	37
Zlate Moravce	33	7	10	16	38	57	31
Senica	33	7	9	17	30	48	30
Michalovce	33	7	8	18	32	55	29
Skalica (R)	33	6	6	21	30	62	24

SLOVENIA

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olimpija (C)	36	22	8	6	75	25	74
Maribor	36	19	11	6	78	37	68
Domzale	36	14	13	9	46	31	55
Gorica	36	15	7	14	48	49	52
Celje	36	11	12	13	32	46	45
Krsko	36	10	11	15	24	48	41
Rudar	36	11	8	17	34	52	41
Koper	36	11	7	18	40	54	40
Zavrc[1]	36	9	13	14	32	41	40
Krka (R)	36	8	10	18	30	56	34

[1]Stay in top division after winning rel/prom play-off

SWITZERLAND

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Basle (C)	36	26	5	5	88	38	83
Young Boys	36	20	9	7	78	47	69
Lucerne	36	15	9	12	59	50	54
Grasshopper	36	15	8	13	65	56	53
Sion	36	14	8	14	52	49	50
Thun	36	10	11	15	45	54	41
St Gallen	36	10	8	18	41	66	38
Vaduz	36	7	15	14	44	60	36
Lugano	36	9	8	19	46	75	35
Zurich (R)	36	7	13	16	48	71	34

TURKEY

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Besiktas (C)	34	25	4	5	75	35	79
Fenerbahce	34	22	8	4	60	27	74
Konyaspor	34	19	9	6	44	33	66
Basaksehir	34	16	11	7	54	36	59
Osmanlispor	34	14	10	10	52	36	52
Galatasaray	34	13	12	9	69	49	51
Kasimpasa	34	14	8	12	50	40	50
Akhisar	34	11	13	10	42	41	46
Antalyaspor	34	12	9	13	53	52	45
Genclerbirligi	34	13	6	15	42	42	45
Bursaspor	34	13	5	16	47	55	44
Trabzonspor	34	12	4	18	40	59	40
Rizespor	34	9	10	15	39	48	37
Gaziantepspor	34	9	9	16	31	50	36
Kayserispor	34	7	13	14	25	41	34
Sivasspor (R)	34	6	13	15	34	48	31
Eskis'spor (R)	34	8	6	20	39	64	30
Mersin (R)	34	5	6	23	31	71	21

UKRAINE

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo (C)	26	23	1	2	54	11	70
Shakhtar	26	20	3	3	76	25	63
Dnipro	26	16	5	5	50	22	53
Zorya	26	14	6	6	51	26	48
Vorskla	26	11	9	6	32	26	42
Oleksandria	26	10	8	8	30	29	38
Karpaty	26	8	6	12	26	37	30
Stal	26	7	8	11	22	31	29
Olimpik	26	6	7	13	23	35	25
Metalist (R)[1]	26	5	9	12	19	46	24
Chornomorets	26	4	10	12	22	39	22
Volyn[2] (R)[1]	26	10	8	8	36	36	20
Hoverla[3] (R)[1]	26	3	7	16	13	48	7
Metalurh Z (R)	26	0	3	23	7	50	3

[1]Not awarded licences for next season [2]18pts docked for not paying ex-players [3]9pts docked for not complying with federation decisions

WALES

Division split after 22-round regular season; teams carried forward full regular-season record

2015-16 – CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Saints (C)	32	18	10	4	72	24	64
Bala	32	15	12	5	48	27	57
Llandudno	32	15	7	10	53	46	52
Connah's Quay	32	15	3	14	50	42	48
Newtown	32	11	9	12	46	54	42
Airbus UK	32	12	6	14	46	55	42

2015-16 – RELEGATION GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carmarthen	32	14	5	13	45	52	47
Aberystwyth	32	13	7	12	51	47	46
Bangor	32	13	6	13	49	52	45
P't Talbot (R)[1]	32	10	9	13	39	56	39
Rhyl	32	5	12	15	36	50	27
Haver'west (R)	32	5	6	21	27	57	21

[1]Relegated after being denied a licence for next season

ASIA

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

1st knockout round

1st legs - May17/18; 2nd legs - May 24/25

Al Ain (UAE) v Zob Ahan (Irn) 1-1, 2-0 (agg 3-1); Al Hilal (Sau) v Lokomotiv Tashkent (Uzb) 0-0, 1-2 (agg 1-2); Al Nasr (UAE) v Tractor Sazi (Irn) 4-1, 1-3 (agg 5-4); Lekhwiya (Qat) v El Jaish (Qat) 0-4, 4-2 (agg 4-6); Melbourne Victory (Aus) v Jeonbuk Motors (SKo) 1-1, 1-2 (agg 2-3); Shandong Luneng (Chn) v Sydney (Aus) 1-1, 2-2 (agg 3-3, Shandong Luneng on away goals); FC Tokyo (Jap) v Shanghai SIPG (Chn) 2-1, 0-1 (agg 2-2, Shanghai SIPG on away goals); Urawa Reds (Jap) v Seoul (SKo) 1-0, 2-3 (aet) (agg 3-3, Seoul 7-6 on pens[1])

[1]Aggregate score1-1 after 90mins of 2nd leg, and away goals scored in extra time not counted)

AFC CUP

GROUP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Ahed (Q)	6	4	0	2	14	9	12
Al Wehdat (Q)	6	2	2	2	10	12	8
Al Hidd	6	2	1	3	11	12	7
Altyn Asyr	6	1	3	2	5	7	6

Al Ahed (Leb), Al Wehdat (Jor), Al Hidd (Bhr), Altyn Asyr (Tkm)

GROUP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Naft Wasat (Q)	6	5	0	1	9	3	15
Al Faisaly (Q)	6	3	2	1	10	6	11
Tripoli	6	2	1	3	8	10	7
Istiklol	6	0	1	5	4	12	1

Naft Al Wasat (Irq), Al Faisaly (Jor), Tripoli (Leb), Istiklol (Taj)

GROUP C – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Quwa Jaw' (Q)	6	5	0	1	15	7	15
Al Wahda (Q)	6	4	0	2	14	6	12
S Al Dhahiriya	6	1	1	4	4	13	4
Al Orouba	6	1	1	4	5	12	4

Al Quwa Al Jawiya (Irq), Al Wahda (Syr), Shabab Al Dhahiriya (Pal), Al Orouba (Oma)

GROUP D – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Muharraq (Q)	6	5	1	0	9	3	16
Al Jaish (Q)	6	3	1	2	5	3	10
Ahli Al Khalil	6	1	2	3	7	11	5
Fanja	6	0	2	4	5	9	2

Al Muharraq (Bhn), Al Jaish (Syr), Ahli Al Khalil (Pal), Fanja (Oma)

GROUP E – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ceres (Q)	6	3	3	0	12	4	12
Tampines (Q)	6	3	1	2	10	6	10
Selangor	6	2	2	2	8	8	8
Sheikh Jamal	6	1	0	5	7	19	3

Ceres (Phi), Tampines Rovers (Sin), Selangor (Mly), Sheikh Jamal (Ban)

GROUP F – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kitchee (Q)	6	4	1	1	8	1	13
Kaya (Q)	6	3	1	2	5	2	10
Balestier	6	2	1	3	6	10	7
New Radiant	6	0	3	3	2	8	3

Kitchee (HK), Kaya (Phi), Balestier Khalsa (Sin), New Radiant (Mdv)

GROUP G – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mohun B'n (Q)	6	3	2	1	14	9	11
Sth China (Q)	6	3	0	3	9	9	9
Yangon United	6	2	2	2	10	10	8
Maziya	6	1	2	3	8	13	5

Mohun Bagan (Ind), South China (HK), Yangon United (Mym), Maziya (Mdv)

GROUP H – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Johor DT (Q)	6	6	0	0	21	3	18
Bengaluru (Q)	6	3	0	3	9	10	9
Ayeyawady	6	2	0	4	12	20	6
Lao Toyota	6	1	0	5	8	17	3

Johor Darul Ta'zim (Mly), Bengaluru (Ind), Ayeyawady United (Mym), Lao Toyota (Lao)

● *The top 2 in each group qualified for the 1st knockout round*

1st knockout round

(single-leg ties)

May 24: Al Ahed 4 Al Wahda 0; Al Quwa Al Jawiya 2 Al Wehdat 1; Ceres 0 South China 1 (aet); Mohun Bagan 1 Tampines Rovers 2 (aet).

May 25: Al Muharraq 1 Al Faisaly 0; Johor Darul Ta'zim 7 Kaya 2; Kitchee 2 Bengaluru 3; Naft Al Wasat 0 Al Jaish 1.

HONG KONG

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Eastern (C)	16	12	2	2	35	13	38
Kitchee	16	11	4	1	32	11	37
South China	16	9	2	5	26	21	29
Sthn District	16	6	5	5	26	21	23
Pegasus	16	4	5	7	22	27	17
Dreams Metro	16	4	4	8	19	30	16
Yuen Long	16	3	6	7	21	32	15
Rangers	16	2	5	9	15	29	11
Wong Tai S (R)	16	2	5	9	17	29	11

INDIA (I-League)

2016 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bengaluru (C)	16	10	2	4	24	17	32
Mohun Bagan	16	8	6	2	32	16	30
East Bengal	16	7	4	5	22	18	25
Sporting Goa	16	5	7	4	24	20	22
Mumbai	16	4	7	5	20	19	19
Shill'g Lajong	16	4	6	6	14	23	18
Salgaocar	16	4	4	8	19	27	16
Aizawl (R)[1]	16	4	4	8	15	21	16
Shivajians	16	3	6	7	16	25	15

[1]Aizawl relegated because Shivajians are a new franchise team, meaning they have immunity from relegation for first 3 seasons in the league

IRAN

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esteghlal K (C)	30	15	12	3	33	14	57
Persepolis	30	16	9	5	50	34	57
Esteghlal T	30	13	13	4	43	28	52
Tractor Sazi	30	13	12	5	43	27	51
Naft Tehran	30	13	10	7	30	21	49
Zob Ahan	30	11	13	6	38	26	46
Saba Qom	30	9	15	6	30	24	42
Saipa	30	11	7	12	28	31	40
Gostaresh	30	10	9	11	36	32	39
Padideh	30	10	9	11	30	35	39
Sepahan	30	8	14	8	29	30	38
Foolad	30	9	8	13	26	37	35
Siah Jamegan	30	7	6	17	23	34	27
Malavan (R)	30	5	12	13	23	35	27
Rah Ahan (R)	30	5	10	15	24	36	25
Esteghlal A (R)	30	2	7	21	16	58	13

JORDAN

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Wehdat (C)	22	11	5	6	29	19	38
Al Faisaly	22	10	6	6	29	20	36
Al Ahli	22	10	5	7	22	21	35
Al Jazeera	22	9	7	6	21	13	34
Shabab Ordon	22	9	6	7	28	25	33
Al Ramtha	22	7	10	5	23	18	31
Al Hussein	22	8	6	8	28	27	30
That Ras	22	7	7	8	22	24	28
Al Buqa'a	22	7	7	8	21	23	28
Al Sareeh	22	5	10	7	19	22	25
Kufrsoum (R)	22	5	9	8	21	30	24
Al Asalah (R)	22	2	6	14	14	35	12

KUWAIT

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Qadsia (C)	24	20	2	2	75	12	62
Al Salmiya	24	19	3	2	52	19	60
Kuwait SC	24	17	5	2	54	16	56
Kazma	24	12	8	4	55	32	44
Al Arabi	24	10	6	8	49	31	36
Khaitan	24	9	3	12	28	46	30
Al Fahaheel	24	6	9	9	29	39	27
Al Jahra	24	8	3	13	31	54	27
Al Sulibkat	24	6	6	12	28	46	24
Al Sahel[1]	24	7	6	11	22	41	24
Al Shabab	24	7	3	14	24	49	24
Al Yarmouk	24	3	4	17	22	46	13
Al Naser	24	1	4	19	12	56	7

[1]Lost 3pts after having a game they won 2-1 awarded as a 3-0 loss; however, the game remained in the win tally in the table

SAUDI ARABIA

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Ahli (C)	26	19	6	1	55	21	63
Al Hilal	26	17	4	5	52	23	55
Al Ittihad	26	15	4	7	54	37	49
Al Taawoun	26	13	6	7	54	35	45
Al Fateh	26	11	8	7	35	28	41
Al Shabab	26	11	6	9	27	28	39
Al Khaleej	26	8	9	9	27	43	33
Al Nassr	26	7	11	8	39	33	32
Al Wehda	26	8	7	11	30	37	31
Al Faisaly	26	7	8	11	28	37	29
Al Qadisiyah	26	6	10	10	26	32	28
Al Raed[1]	26	6	6	14	30	45	24
Najran (R)	26	5	6	15	36	53	21
Hajer (R)	26	2	3	21	15	56	9

[1]Stay in top division after winning rel/prom play-off

TAIWAN

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Taipower (C)	14	12	1	1	58	5	37
Tatung	14	9	3	2	46	12	30
T Sports Univ	14	8	3	3	41	17	27
NSTC	14	8	1	5	39	25	25
Royal Blues	14	6	2	6	35	26	20
Ming Chuan	14	5	2	7	23	28	17
Taichung City	14	2	0	12	18	73	6
Air Source	14	0	0	14	11	85	0

AFRICA

CAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group stage draw

Group A

Al Ahly (Egy)
ASEC Abidjan (IvC)
Wydad Casablanca (Mor)
Zesco United (Zam)

Group B

Enyimba (Nga)
ES Setif (Alg)
Mamelodi Sundowns (SAf)[1]
Zamalek (Egy)

[1]Reinstated in the competition after AS Vita (DRC), who had beaten Sundowns in the preceding round, were disqualified for fielding an ineligible player in their preliminary round tie

Games to be played Jun 17-Aug 23

● *The top 2 in both groups qualify for the semi-finals*

CONFEDERATION CUP

Play-off round

(the 8 losing teams from the CAF Champions League 2nd round entered at this stage)

1st legs - May 6-8; 2nd legs - May17/18

Al Ahli Tripoli (Lby) v Misr El Makasa (Egy) 0-0, 1-1 (agg 1-1, Al Ahli Tripoli on away goals); Al Merrikh (Sud) v Kawkab Marrakech (Mor) 1-0, 0-2 (agg 1-2); Etoile Sahel (Tun) v CF Mounana (Gab) 2-0, 0-1 (agg 2-1); Mamelodi Sundowns (SAf)[1] v Medeama (Gha) 3-1, 0-2 (agg 3-3, Medeama on away goals); MO Bejaia (Alg) v Esperance (Tun) 0-0, 1-1 (agg 1-1, MO Bejaia on away goals); Stade Malien (Mli) v FUS Rabat (Mor) 0-0, 0-4 (agg 0-4); TP Mazembe (DRC) v Stade Gabesien (Tun) 1-0, 1-2 (agg 2-2, TP Mazembe on away goals); Young Africans (Tan) v Sagrada Esperanca (Ang) 2-0, 0-1 (agg 2-1)

[1]Reinstated in the CAF Champions League (at the group stage) after playing this Confederation Cup tie

● *Winners have qualified for the group stage*

Group stage draw

Group A

Medeama, MO Bejaia, TP Mazembe, Young Africans

Group B

Al Ahli Tripoli, Etoile Sahel, FUS Rabat, Kawkab Marrakech

Games to be played Jun 17-Aug 23

● *The top 2 in both groups qualify for the semi-finals*

ALGERIA

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
USM Alger (C)	30	17	7	6	49	31	58
JS Saoura	30	12	12	6	39	25	48
JS Kabylie	30	12	9	9	27	27	45
CR Belouizdad	30	11	12	7	40	29	45
ES Setif	30	11	11	8	31	19	44
MO Bejaia	30	11	11	8	33	23	44
Tadjenanet	30	11	10	9	32	30	43
Constantine	30	11	9	10	26	32	42
USM Harrach	30	10	11	9	28	27	41
MC Oran	30	9	13	8	40	35	40
Hussein Dey	30	10	10	10	31	35	40
MC Alger	30	8	14	8	28	26	38
RC Relizane	30	8	12	10	36	35	36
USM Blida (R)	30	7	15	8	20	29	36
RC Arbaa (R)	30	4	7	19	31	55	19
ASM Oran (R)	30	5	3	22	21	54	18

LESOTHO

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lioli (C)	26	17	8	1	40	11	59
Matlama	26	18	4	4	46	23	58
LCS	26	12	8	6	25	15	44
Sundawana	26	12	6	8	28	26	42
Likhopo	26	9	10	7	29	22	37
Kick4Life	26	9	10	7	24	25	37
Bantu	26	10	6	10	28	22	36
Defence Force	26	8	10	8	24	22	34
LMPS	26	6	12	8	26	29	30
Linare	26	6	8	12	27	32	26
Liphakoe	26	5	10	11	19	31	25
Rovers	26	6	7	13	16	28	25
Likila Utd (R)	26	5	5	16	17	37	20
Mphat'sane (R)	26	4	6	16	21	47	18

MAURITANIA

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tevragh-Z (C)	24	19	4	1	50	15	61
Nouadhibou	24	17	4	3	54	11	55
Concorde	24	11	11	2	42	23	44
Tidjikja	24	12	6	6	32	27	42
Ksar	24	11	7	6	31	23	40
Garde Nat	24	10	6	8	31	26	36
SNIM	24	8	9	7	28	25	33
Zem Zem	24	8	7	9	27	25	31
Police	24	8	6	10	26	28	30
Toujounine	24	4	7	13	21	39	19
Armee Nat	24	3	6	15	16	35	15
Kedia	24	3	5	16	18	47	14
Assaba (R)	24	1	4	19	13	65	7

SOUTH AFRICA

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mamelodi S (C)	30	22	5	3	55	20	71
Bidvest Wits	30	17	6	7	44	24	57
Platinum St's[1]	30	13	9	8	41	33	47
Black Aces	30	12	11	7	37	29	47
Kaizer Chiefs	30	11	13	6	38	30	46
Chippa Utd	30	13	6	11	42	39	45
Orlando P'tes	30	11	8	11	38	30	41
SuperSport	30	10	10	10	36	38	40
Gold Arrows	30	11	7	12	28	35	40
Aj Cape Town	30	9	10	11	34	41	37
Bloemfontein	30	8	12	10	30	26	36
Free State St	30	9	8	13	28	37	35
Polokwane	30	7	10	13	31	44	31
Maritzburg	30	6	9	15	35	53	27
Univ Pretoria[2]	30	6	7	17	25	42	25
Jomo Co's (R)	30	6	7	17	20	41	25

[1] 1pt deducted for fielding ineligible player
[2]Enter rel/prom play-offs

SWAZILAND

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
R Leopards (C)	22	13	7	2	34	17	46
Mbabane High	22	14	3	5	34	19	45
Yng Buffaloes	22	12	6	4	35	16	42
Mbabane Sw	22	10	7	5	48	22	37
Mbabane City	22	10	4	8	23	21	34
Green Mamba	22	7	9	6	35	26	30
Manzini Wand	22	6	7	9	21	32	25
Manzini Sun's	22	6	6	10	18	23	24
Red Lions	22	6	6	10	19	37	24
Manzini Sea B	22	5	6	11	22	38	21
Bad Boys (R)	22	4	7	11	21	36	19
Malanti Ch (R)	22	2	6	14	17	40	12

TANZANIA

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Y Africans (C)	30	22	7	1	70	20	73
Azam	30	18	10	2	47	24	64
Simba	30	19	5	6	45	17	62
Prisons	30	13	12	5	29	22	51
Mtibwa Sugar	30	14	8	8	33	21	50
Mwadui	30	11	8	11	29	29	41
Stand United	30	12	4	14	28	30	40
Mbeya City	30	9	8	13	32	34	35
Ndanda	30	7	14	9	28	31	35
Majimaji	30	9	8	13	22	40	35
Ruvu Stars	30	8	8	14	31	43	32
Kagera Sugar	30	8	7	15	23	34	31
Toto Africans	30	7	9	14	26	40	30
Mgambo (R)	30	6	10	14	24	36	28
Af Sports (R)	30	7	5	18	13	34	26
Coastal Un (R)	30	5	7	18	16	41	22

CONCACAF

COSTA RICA

2015-16 Clausura Final

1st leg - May 9; 2nd leg - May14

Alajuelense v Herediano 0-1, 0-2 (agg 0-3)

EL SALVADOR

2015-16 Clausura Final

May 29: Aguila 0 Dragon 1.

GUATEMALA

2015-16 Clausura Final

1st leg - May 26; 2nd leg - May 29

Comunicaciones v Suchitepequez 2-1, 0-3 (agg 2-4)

HONDURAS

2015-16 Clausura Final

1st leg - May18; 2nd leg - May 22

Real Sociedad v Olimpia 1-2, 1-3 (agg 2-5)

MEXICO

2015-16 CLAUSURA – REGULAR – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monterrey (Q)	17	12	1	4	38	23	37
Pachuca (Q)	17	8	6	3	31	16	30
Leon (Q)	17	9	3	5	29	19	30
America (Q)	17	8	5	4	34	22	29
Guadal'jara (Q)	17	7	7	3	26	16	28
Morelia (Q)	17	8	4	5	25	24	28
Santos (Q)	17	8	3	6	22	20	27
Tigres (Q)	17	6	6	5	29	19	24
Cruz Azul	17	5	7	5	25	24	22
Pumas	17	5	7	5	23	24	22
Toluca	17	5	7	5	20	21	22
Puebla	17	5	7	5	21	26	22
Queretaro	17	5	4	8	21	26	19
Tijuana	17	3	9	5	17	26	18
Atlas	17	3	5	9	18	26	14
Dorados (R)[1]	17	4	2	11	18	32	14
Veracruz	17	2	8	7	18	34	14
Jaguares	17	3	3	11	16	33	12

[1]Team with the lowest average points per game over the 3 most recent seasons were relegated

● *The top 8 qualified for the clausura quarter-finals*

Quarter-finals

1st legs - May11/12; 2nd legs - May14/15

Guadalajara v America 0-0, 1-2 (agg 1-2)
Morelia v Leon 1-1, 1-4 (agg 2-5)
Santos v Pachuca 1-1, 2-3 (agg 3-4)
Tigres v Monterrey 1-3, 2-1 (agg 3-4)

Semi-finals

1st legs - May18/19; 2nd legs - May 21/22

America v Monterrey 1-0, 2-4 (agg 3-4)
Leon v Pachuca 1-1, 1-2 (agg 2-3)

2015-16 Clausura Final

1st leg - May 26; 2nd leg - May 29

Pachuca v Monterrey 1-0, 1-1 (agg 2-1)

NICARAGUA

2015-16 Clausura Final

1st leg - May14; 2nd leg - May 21

Walter Ferretti v Real Esteli 0-0, 0-1 (agg 0-1)

PANAMA

2015-16 Clausura Final

May 22: Plaza Amador 1 Chorrillo 0.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

2015-16 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Central (C)	27	18	4	5	68	20	58
SJ Jabloteh	27	17	3	7	51	36	54
Defence Force	27	14	7	6	54	23	49
W Connection	27	14	7	6	54	25	49
NE Stars	27	13	5	9	42	49	44
Police	27	12	4	11	57	56	40
Club Sando	27	9	3	15	36	57	30
Point Fortin	27	6	4	17	28	56	22
Caledonia	27	6	4	17	28	57	22
St Ann's	27	3	5	19	26	65	14

SOUTH AMERICA

LIBERTADORES CUP

Quarter-finals

1st legs

May11

Sao Paulo (Bra) 1 (Michel Bastos 79)
Atletico Mineiro (Bra) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)

May12

Nacional (Uru) 1 (Fernandez 76)
Boca Juniors (Arg) 1 (Fabra 70)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Caceres (Par)

May12

Rosario Central (Arg) 1 (Montoya 6)
Atletico Nacional (Col) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ricci (Bra)

May17

Independiente del Valle (Ecu) 2
(Jose Angulo 42, 55)
Pumas UNAM (Mex) 1 (Martinez 73)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Vigliano (Arg)

2nd legs

May18

Atletico Mineiro 2 (Cazares 7, Carlos 12)
Sao Paulo 1 (Maicon 15)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Cunha (Uru)
Sent off: Leandro Donizete (Atletico Mineiro) 90+4
Agg 2-2; Sao Paulo on away goals

May19

Atletico Nacional 3 (Torres 45+2, Guerra 50, Berrio 90+5)
Rosario Central 1 (Ruben pen 9)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Fedorczuk (Uru)
Sent off: Burgos 90+1, Musto 90+7, Lo Celso 90+11 (all Rosario Central); Berrio (Atletico Nacional) 90+7
Atletico Nacional 3-2 on agg

May19

Boca Juniors 1 (Pavon 73)
Nacional 1 (Diaz og 21)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Lopes (Bra)
Sent off: Pavon (Boca Juniors) 73
Agg 2-2; Boca Juniors 4-3 on pens

May 24

Pumas UNAM 2 (Sosa 16, 18)
Independiente del Valle 1 (Sornoza 66)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Carrillo (Per)
Sent off: Ayala (Independiente) 56
Agg 3-3; Independiente del Valle 5-3 on pens

Semi-finals draw

Independiente del Valle v Boca Juniors
Sao Paulo v Atletico Nacional
1st legs - July 6/7; 2nd legs - July13/14

ARGENTINA

2016 – GROUP 1 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
S Lorenzo (Q)	16	10	4	2	23	16	34
Godoy Cruz	16	10	3	3	27	14	33
Independiente	16	7	6	3	22	12	27
Arsenal	16	8	3	5	21	15	27
Gimnasia LP	16	7	4	5	19	19	25
Velez Sarsfield	16	7	3	6	20	19	24
Rosario	16	5	5	6	19	16	20
Patronato	16	5	5	6	19	23	20
River Plate	16	4	6	6	21	22	18
Sarmiento	16	4	5	7	10	18	17
Colon	16	5	2	9	21	31	17
Belgrano	16	4	4	8	21	24	16
Banfield	16	2	9	5	15	20	15
Quilmes	16	3	6	7	21	32	15
Olimpo	16	3	4	9	11	20	13

2016 – GROUP 2 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lanus (Q)	16	12	2	2	28	10	38
Estudiantes LP	16	9	5	2	25	11	32
Atl Tucuman	16	9	3	4	26	19	30
Def y Justicia	16	7	4	5	25	16	25
Huracan	16	7	4	5	21	15	25
Racing	16	6	6	4	29	26	24
San Martin	16	6	5	5	23	20	23
Union	16	5	7	4	24	22	22
Tigre	16	5	5	6	21	17	20
Boca Juniors	16	5	5	6	15	13	20
Aldosivi	16	4	5	7	19	28	17
Newell's	16	3	7	6	16	21	16
Temperley	16	4	4	8	14	21	16
Argentinos (R)[1]	16	2	6	8	11	29	12
Atl Rafaela	16	2	3	11	14	32	9

[1]Team with the lowest average points per game over the 3 most recent seasons were relegated

● *The group winners qualified for the Final*

2016 Tournament Final

May 29: San Lorenzo 0 Lanus 4.

BOLIVIA

2015-16 CLAUSURA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
J Wilst'man (C)	22	13	5	4	39	28	44
The Strongest	22	11	5	6	36	24	38
Universitario S	22	9	9	4	38	26	36
Nacional	22	10	4	8	38	32	34
Oriente	22	9	7	6	29	23	34
Petrolero[1]	22	9	5	8	33	31	32
Bolivar	22	6	8	8	28	30	26
San Jose	22	6	7	9	30	34	25
Sport Boys	22	5	10	7	20	27	25
Real Potosi	22	7	3	12	31	41	24
Blooming	22	6	5	11	27	34	23
Ciclon (R)[2]	22	6	2	14	30	49	20

[1]Enter rel/prom play-off
[2]The team with the lowest average points per game over the 2 most recent seasons were relegated

CHILE

2015-16 CLAUSURA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U Catolica (C)	15	9	2	4	33	25	29
Colo Colo	15	8	4	3	19	11	28
O'Higgins	15	8	4	3	28	24	28
Palestino	15	6	7	2	24	18	25
U Concepcion	15	8	1	6	22	24	25
S Wanderers	15	6	5	4	31	26	23
Antofagasta	15	6	3	6	23	18	21
Dep Iquique	15	4	7	4	23	22	19
Huachipato	15	4	7	4	26	27	19
Univ de Chile	15	3	7	5	29	25	16
San Luis	15	3	7	5	22	25	16
Audax Italiano	15	3	7	5	16	19	16
U Espanola	15	2	9	4	20	24	15
Cobresal	15	3	5	7	14	21	14
S Marcos (R)[1]	15	2	6	7	10	17	12
U Calera (R)[1]	15	2	5	8	16	30	11

[1]The bottom 2 teams in the combined apertura/clausura table were relegated

PARAGUAY

2016 APERTURA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Libertad (C)	22	14	2	6	38	23	44
Olimpia	22	14	1	7	57	30	43
Sol America	22	9	8	5	41	36	35
Guarani	22	10	5	7	35	31	35
Rubio Nu	22	10	3	9	31	32	33
Cerro Porteno	22	9	4	9	40	32	31
Capiata	22	8	6	8	42	42	30
Luqueno	22	7	6	9	28	31	27
Gen Caballero	22	7	5	10	36	47	26
General Diaz	22	6	6	10	32	44	24
Nacional	22	6	5	11	36	42	23
River Plate	22	3	7	12	17	43	16

VENEZUELA

2016 Apertura Final

1st leg - May 25; 2nd leg - May 29

Anzoategui v Zamora 1-1, 1-3 (agg 2-4)

KEY TO TABLES
(C) = champions
(R) = relegated
(Q) = qualified for next stage

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World Soccer's GREAT MATCHES

JUNE 21, 1986, GUADALAJARA: WORLD CUP QUARTER-FINAL

France 1 Brazil 1

The reigning European champions deny Brazil on penalties in a thrilling Mexican standoff

Victorious...Michel Platini (right) and Luiz Fernandez celebrate

"Brazil, as they had done in Spain in 1982, squandered a golden opportunity to progress to the latter stages of the finals," began *World Soccer*'s report on the quarter-final clash in Mexico between Brazil and France.

In 1982, Brazil had played some fantastic football and had been regarded as the best team in the tournament. But for all their attacking prowess, they were undone by a hat-trick from Italy's Paolo Rossi which ended their involvement.

Four years later, they found the 1984 Euro winners standing in their way.

"The match was a classic of all that is good in football in the old and the new world," the report continued. "But as Brazil discovered yet again, to play well and lose can be only the merest consolation."

Somewhat against the run of play, Brazil took the lead through Careca. However, Michel Platini equalised just before the break.

"The action was often fast and furious," added the report, "but full of the quality play one has come to expect from two fine teams."

As the game went on, Brazil intensified the pressure, with Socrates orchestrating chances for both Muller and Careca.

The turning point came when Zico, who had been regarded as the best Brazilian player since Pele, came on as a substitute for Muller. But within a minute he squandered a great chance to restore his side's lead as French keeper Joel Bats saved his penalty.

And with no further score during extra-time, a place in the semi-finals would be determined by spot-kicks.

Platini put his penalty over the bar but it would not matter as Brazil missed twice and France won the shoot-out 4-3.

As the report concluded: "The so-called 'Brazilians' of Europe had triumphed over the old." WS

Hero...Joel Bats denies Socrates in a shoot-out

Referee: Igna (Rom)

KEY MOMENTS

First...Careca (far left) puts Brazil ahead

17min Neat footwork from Junior and Muller sets up Careca, who scores from 15 yards. **0-1**

32min Muller hits a post after a fine run and cross by Careca.

41min Michel Platini taps in for France after a Dominique Rocheteau cross causes confusion in the Brazil penalty area. **1-1**

70min A Socrates pass finds Muller, whose header hits the crossbar.

72min Brazil make a substitution, with Zico replacing Muller.

73min Branco is brought down by Joel Bats. Zico steps up, but his tame shot is saved by the keeper.

85min Bats pulls off another save from a point-blank Zico header.

89min Rocheteau is clean through for France but misses an open goal.

117 min Bruno Bellone is brought down by keeper Carlos outside the area, but the referee waves play on.

Penalties Socrates takes the first spot-kick, which Bats saves. With the score at 3-3, Platini misses the chance to put France in the semi-finals as he skies his effort over the bar. Then Julio Cesar of Brazil hits a post, leaving Luis Fernandez to tuck home the winner. **(4-3 on pens)**

Level...Michel Platini

Miss...Zico's spot-kick is saved in normal time

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